

An Essential Skill

A number of years ago a book called "Why Johnny Can't Read" was published and it promptly became a bestseller, going on to have many additional purchasers as a paperback. But while that book and many others in a similar vein have helped create public awareness of a grave problem, it is still very much with us. Indeed, experts tell us that 21 million American adults are functionally illiterate.

Think what those people are losing out on—not only the opportunity to get a decent job and advance themselves economically, but also the solid satisfaction, the information, the fun that reading can provide. Newspapers, magazines, current works of fiction and non-fiction, even the captions which appear from time to time on the omnipresent television set are beyond their comprehension.

One could go on at length about deficiencies in the process of educating the young and the resources as well as the policies needed to remedy them. But that is an overworked subject, and maybe we need to look at the

problem also from another standpoint.

If kids get the firmly implanted idea that reading can be fun and are provided with the means to follow up on that idea, they may very well advance their reading skills tremendously. A little time spent with a child before he reaches school age, reading aloud to him and familiarizing him with books as natural adjuncts to an enriched life, might provide the impetus needed.

The people at the public library that is most convenient for your family's use would be glad to help in such an effort. That is where the requisite community resources are in best supply—not only printed matter, but such things as summer reading projects programs, preschool story hours and film programs. This being National Library Week, librarians and their staffs throughout the land are making a special pitch for public attention to the facilities and programs they have to offer, and not, of course, only for the young. Libraries should be regarded as among the most important and prized of features of our way of life, this week and every week.

Yorkville POTPOURRI



Circulation 193!

18 February 1978

Library Hours

YORKTOWN — The daytime operating hours of the York County Public Library will be extended beginning Monday because of frequent use by students on certain days.

The library will remain open until 4 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays. It will continue to close at 2 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. The Saturday hours will also be extended to 2 p.m. from the present noon closing.

The opening time of 10 a.m. will continue Mondays through Saturdays.

The library's hours of 7 to 9 week-nights will remain unchanged. The library is in the Grafton Shopping Center

DO YOU KNOW YOUR COUNTY LIBRARY?

The York County Public Library has occupied its present "store-front" location in Grafton Shopping Center for more than six years, yet frequently county residents, both newcomers and old-timers, seem surprised to find it there, and even more surprised to find that there is much more to the Library than appears at first glance.

Do you know that your County Library has more than 13,000 volumes in its collection, with several hundred new books being added each month? This collection includes the newest in current fiction and non-fiction, a broad reference collection and a large selection of children's books of all kinds. Some of the more popular items are found in the extensive hobby, handicraft and how-to section, and in the Virginiana collection, which includes much information on local history. Recent additions to the reference section include the complete Virginia Code of Laws and "Facts on File", which is updated weekly. Current catalogs from all Virginia colleges are available, as well as special announcements of local classes, programs and meetings.

A ten week reading club program for children is held during the summer, along with a weekly film and story hour. During the school year a story hour for preschoolers is conducted every Wednesday morning at 10:30. The HARO Science Fiction Club holds lively meetings at the library on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 PM. Recent meetings have included films, discussions, a visit to a well known illustrator, a rocket-shoot, and publication of a club "fanzine".

The Library has been under the direction of Beverly Dudley since shortly after it was organized in 1968. She is assisted by Mrs. Clare Stifft, Mrs. Martha Sim and Mrs. Martha Sandridge and by a number of volunteers who donate several hours of work each month.



Feb 18 1975 Library Volunteers To Be Recognized

By RICH METCALF
Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — The steadfast service of volunteers at the York County Public Library will be recognized Sunday at a 2:30 p.m. reception at the library.

Approximately 75 volunteers have been invited by the library's board of trustees to the first reception held in their honor since the library opened 11 years ago.

"The volunteers are the thread that's been woven through the history of the library," said Tom Walton, a volunteer himself with the Friends of the Library.

Walton is one of 43 members of the Friends, a group formed last September to support the library by promoting it in the community and by providing limited financial assistance when necessary.

A more traditional form of volunteer help has been in the library's actual operation. About 32 persons donate their time to keep the library open six days a week.

Mrs. Beverly Dudley, head librarian, said volunteer help is strong enough to enable the library to begin operating 40 hours a week beginning Monday.

"If it wasn't for them, we'd have to curtail our hours," she said.

The library was established by volunteers. Walton said the York County Volunteer Association started the library in 1967. The association paid for its operation until 1970 with the help of various civic and school community service groups.

The late William Larew, who was

county administrator at the time, helped provide the library with limited county funding in 1971. That was the year it moved to its present location at the Grafton Shopping Center.

Approximately five years ago, the county began appropriating money for the purchase of books and supplies.

As the library has grown larger — it now has 13,000 hardcover books on the shelves — the role of the volunteer in its operation has changed.

Volunteers no longer manage its operation. That is done by the three part-time and one full-time staff members, with some supervision from the five member board of trustees.

The volunteers now support the staff by manning the front desk where books are checked in and out, and by returning the books to the shelves.

As the library continues to grow, the role of the volunteer will change. Mrs. Dudley said once the library becomes large enough to warrant total operation by paid personnel, volunteers will channel their energies toward organizing children and adult reading programs.

She said volunteer assistance will continue to be used for such projects as taking inventory.

The 34 volunteers now assisting in the library's operation include Mrs. Selma Lawson, who has served as a volunteer since the library opened in 1967.

The most active volunteer is Mrs. Connie Fitz, who began working at the library shortly after Mrs. Lawson. Mrs. Dudley said Mrs. Fitz works more hours a week than any other volunteer.

There is one man among the 34 volunteers, Jim Hadden of Dare.





Staff photo by Thom Slate

Selma Lawson (left) has been a volunteer the longest (since 1967) and Connie Fitz has most hours accumulated



RECEPTION

FEBRUARY 19, 1978



Library Trustees

YORKTOWN — The York County Library Trustee Board will consider how to improve the library to meet requirements for state funding at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the county administration building.

J. William Stifft, board chairman, said the board will review a seven-page document entitled "Recommended Minimum Standards for Virginia Public Libraries."

MAR. 1978

York library struggles to meet standards

By KATHY SCHWILLE
Times-Herald Staff Writer

On the big map in Richmond showing where there are public libraries in Virginia, York County is pinpointed with a different color.

The different color means York's library does not yet meet state standards and doesn't qualify for state aid.

But that doesn't bother the women who keep the library running. York's library, they point out, was started from scratch by a volunteer group in 1968. It has grown from 4,000 volumes in 1969 to more than 12,000 volumes today.

And finally, the York County Public Library may this year meet state minimum standards and qualify for a little aid. Hours have just been expanded to meet the state's minimum of 40 per

week.

The library is now open Mondays through Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Last year the library met for the first time another state minimum — spending \$1.50 per county resident on library facilities.

That minimum spending requirement may rise to \$1.75 next year, says library clerk June Dudley, but if the library's budget request to the county board of supervisors for \$61,000 is met, the library will still be within state standards.

State aid, if York were to get it this year, wouldn't amount to more than a few thousand dollars. But in a library as small as York's,

every little bit helps.

Even if York gets state aid, one problem remains. There are still not enough people using the York library.

Located at the Grafton Shopping Center in a long, narrow room, the library suffers in comparison to more spacious libraries in Newport News, Hampton and Williamsburg.

But, says Mrs. Dudley, "a lot of people are surprised when they come in here. We have a lot of what they want." Unlike other libraries which she characterizes as "having a lot of books nobody ever needs," York's library carries popular books. ("If we get two requests for a book, we try to order it," she explains.)

York, she emphasizes, is in a "unique situation" by having "two huge municipalities

providing free library service" to anyone on the Peninsula. Residents inclined to do their shopping in Newport News or Hampton are inclined to visit libraries there, too. "I've even been known to use them," she confesses.

The level of financial support from the county "held us back for the longest time," she explains.

A group of York citizens is trying to rejuvenate interest in the York library. Called The Friends of the York County Library, the group intends to drum up money and support for the Grafton facility.

They dream of a new library, somewhere in the Grafton area. The county's proposed capital improvements plan suggests using \$55,000 in federal revenue sharing funds in Fiscal Year

1980 to start plans for a library. General obligation bonds would be sold to fund the rest of construction, estimated at \$665,500.

But Mrs. Dudley says she expects about the only way York citizens would pass a bond referendum to build a library would be for Newport News and Hampton to cut off free service.

Regionalization is another option which could help the York library grow. But in the past, officials have discussed regionalization with the Williamsburg library, and Mrs. Dudley says she's not in favor of that. "We don't like the idea ... Nobody would go from here (the lower county) up there."

Regionalization with Newport News and Hampton would make more sense, she says.

Ironclads Display At Library

YORKTOWN — The Peninsula Campaign Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy has ar-

ranged a display on the Merrimack and the Monitor in the York County Library this month.

The display includes a map of Hampton Roads showing northern and Confederate batteries, the location of the ironclads and the location of the forts involved.

The display, organized by Mrs. James H. Godwin, also includes a sketch of the SSC Virginia which later became the Merrimack.

The chapter will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday in the home of Mrs. B. H. Bailey on Moorehouse Road for a program on Secesh women to be presented by Mrs. J. F. Mullen of Yorktown.

Membership Drive

YORKTOWN — About 3,000 membership forms for the Friends of the York County Public Library have been distributed this month door-to-door in communities throughout the lower county.

The forms were distributed by 18 volunteers as part of a membership drive for the group, which supports and promotes the county library at the Grafton Shopping Center.

MAR 1978

MARCH 1978

AUGUST

1978



(Staff Photos by Ransy Morr)

Dragon Club

Youngsters enjoy a marionette show presented Wednesday by Mrs. Sandra Hannah, in picture

at left, and Dick Hanna, picture at right, in the York County Library in Grafton. Mrs. Hannah's

life-size dolls were part of the closing session of the "Dragon Club," the summer reading pro-

gram for about 200 children. Mrs. Hannah performed "Red Riding Hood" for about 35 children.

THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN HAVE READ AND REPORTED ON 20 OR MORE BOOKS THIS
SUMMER:

Cynthia Angell

Laurette Lambregts

Chris Baber

Lisette Lambregts

Charles Blair

John Mills

Kevin Blair

David Murtland

Holly Brown

Janet Myers

Gregory Bush

Glen Osvold

Paul Coe

Marc Osvold

Richard Coe

Michael Rhodes

Heather Dougherty

Carolyn Seaman

Tracy Lynn Edmundson

Billy Shelton

Jennifer Fernald

June Sines

Becky Fitz

Tara Smith

Lor Ann Fitz

Jammy Stankan

Jean Gant

Mary Stankan

Natalie Gillions

Jonathan Sumner

Johnny Hall

Tracey Tillman

Stephanie Hanna

Terrie Tillman

Georgi Hyde

Sharon Ware

Kris Jensen

Jennifer Washeleski

Kent Kruse

Beth Wertschnig

Bernie Kruse

Mary Wertschnig

Alan Sadler

Lisa Sadler

WINNERS

140 Jay

BIG BIRD (Elizabeth Sim) VISITS
YORK LIBRARY





DAR creation

Staff photo by Thom Slater

This Betsy Ross doll in the York County public library is calling attention to the fact that it was this week 191 years ago that the U.S. Constitution was adopted. The display in honor of Constitution Week was planned and created by the Free State of Warwick Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



For the whole population of lower York, this small ex-store serves as the public library. *Skoal.*

Books on Sale

GRAFTON — York's Public Library will hold a one-day sidewalk sale of books for young and old this Saturday, November 4, in front of its crammed little "store" at the Grafton Shopping Center on Route 17.

Tom Walton of Dare, vice president of the Friends of the Library, says the bargains will go for 25¢ and up.

Microwave Use

YORKTOWN — Two brief slide programs to help persons learn to use microwave ovens will be available Wednesday in York County's public library and Thursday in Poquoson's library.

The programs, "Microwave Basics" and "Microwaving Utensils," will include taped narrations. Written material will also be available.

The programs will be in York's library at the Grafton Shopping Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. They will be in Poquoson's library on Odd Road from 1 to 4:30 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

Library 1/6 "Proper" Size

by Margaret Cubberly

GRAFTON — If the York County Library doesn't find adequate quarters soon, librarians might start taking refuge next door for some easier ABC's.

The library that began on a shoestring in 1968 as a York County Volunteer Association project has almost quadrupled its books in 10 years and has increased yearly circulation 1300% to 65,000 check-outs.

"Our circulation is terrific!" says cataloger Claire Stiff. "We have the highest in the state in proportion to the number of books" — 15,000.

But space: none. Since 1971 the library serving more than 25,000 people has been wedged into a little one-room storefront between dry cleaners and the ABC liquor store at the Grafton Shopping Center.

"Good service totally depends on the amount of space," says chief librarian Mrs. Beverly Dudley. "The community urgently needs a meeting room for special classes and

interest groups."

Mrs. Dudley has been in charge since the county assumed responsibility for the book collection in 1970 when it was still in an old frame house at Route 17 and Dare Road.

She points to the crowded bookshelves, the cramped children's corner, and the oversized broom closet that is the working area in the store for the regular staff of five.

The building contains 2,500 square feet. "This is six times less than the American Library Association recommends for a community of this size," says Mrs. Dudley.

Still, the library manages to offer a story hour and films for children, a summer reading program and an occasional speaker.

Volunteers are still its backbone. There are 28, ranging from housewives to retired executives.

Mrs. Mary Ahearn, who works on Saturday mornings, sees the library as "a central spot for the

community, especially for older people. They take out an enormous number of books."

A regional library system has been in the wind since the library was founded, but it never got off the ground. Mrs. Dudley is currently working with the State Library Staff and the York County Planning Department on a community analysis of library needs, but new quarters seem as far away as ever.

"By July of 1979 we'll be going downhill instead of up," says Mrs. Dudley, "and in two years we'll be getting close to the stone wall."

New book stacks are already expected to squeeze the children's corner, and as the library expands the floor space used by the lounge and study areas will be sharply decreased.

Clair Stiff, buried behind a stack of uncataloged books (there is no storage space) doesn't mince words. "If our growth continues, we'll just have no place to go." (Except next door.) □

December 1, 1978

Around town

Kiddie films give Mom a break

"Holiday Help for Harried Mothers" is the title of a library program aimed at providing relief to mothers trying to get ready — or recover from — the Christmas holidays.

The York County Public Library will sponsor free children's movies Monday through Friday the week before and the week after Christmas.

A different movie will be shown each day, once in the morning from 10:30 to noon and once in the afternoon from 1 to 2:30. Dates are Dec. 18 through 22 and Dec. 26 through 29.

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THE TIMES-HERALD, Newport News, Va., Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1978

See a movie, make a gift

A Christmas crafts workshop for elementary school children will be held Thursday at the York County Public Library. Children will make a useful Christmas present at sessions scheduled so children may also see the movies being shown at the library this week. The morning craft session begins at 10 a.m., the morning movie at 10:30 a.m. Afternoon movie begins at 1 p.m., present-making at 2:30 p.m.

Present-making materials cost 25 cents.

Sesquicentennial Slides

YORKTOWN — York County Supervisor Shirley Cooper will present a slide show at 8 p.m. March 28 in the York County Public Library on the 1931 sesquicentennial celebration at Yorktown.

Mrs. Cooper will narrate the history of the celebrations since 1931 and will describe the bicentennial celebration to be held in 1981.

Normal library activities will be suspended at 8 p.m. for the program.

The program is sponsored by the Friends of the York County Public Library and will last one hour. The library is in the Grafton Shopping Center.

THE YORK TOWN CRIER: December 1, 1978



Norma Colton, left, assistant at the York County Public Library in Grafton, checks in five new books about the Confederacy presented by Elizabeth Godwin on behalf of the Peninsula Campaign Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Library Notes

GRAFTON—The York Public Library in the Grafton Shopping Center has extended its daytime hours — it's now open Monday through Friday from 10am to 4pm.

Saturday hours remain the same: 10am-2pm, and evening hours are Monday-Friday, 7-9pm.

Cassette tapes are now available on two-week loan in four categories: classical, popular, spoken arts and children's tapes.

Three staff members of the library were en route to Washington D.C. this week to attend the January 9-10 midwinter meeting of the American Library Association. Librarian Beverly Dudley and assistants Norma Colton and Mary Tyrrell were to register for the session at the Sheraton Park. □

Ouch . . .

Crier:

April 5

Ten swats with a rolled-up galley proof for your failure to tell Mrs. Griffin (Letters, April 6) the most obvious and logical place for her to find information on Yorktown — the York County Public Library. Any of the books on sale at the various bookstores in Yorktown can be borrowed at no charge from the library's Virginiana collection — and a lot more besides.

Only two weeks ago, the *Crier* carried an editorial calling on the citizens of the county to give some thought to the library's future. Your support is much appreciated, but somewhere you missed the point. Of course, the library is too small and crowded, but don't sell it short. Larger and better quarters are desperately needed, precisely *because* the library is a good one, growing rapidly and serving its patrons well, not simply because, as the *Crier* likes to point out, with doubtful accuracy, that its book collection is smaller than that of the York High School Library.

The number of volumes held is a poor basis of comparison at best; the selection of books for the general public bears little relation to the selection of books for a school library; nor can the quality of service given by a library be measured by the number of books on its shelves. If you insist on quoting numbers, you should at least keep them up to date; we add more than 200 books to the library collection each month. The rapidly growing number of borrowers checked out more than 71,000 books last year.

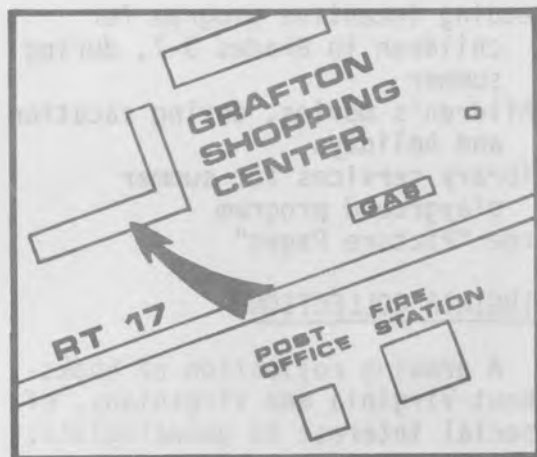
Mrs. Griffin, welcome back to York County. Come to the library and read all about it. And bring your grandson — we'll have something to interest him too.

Clare Stifft
York County Public Library

[1] *We were assuming Mrs. Griffin might plan ahead as far as we do and start looking for Yorktown info when she reached Cornwallis Cave.* [2] *We celebrate your growing collection, but there's that space problem, and we hear rumors the Virginiana collection is soon to be shelved next door, between "Canadian" and "Scotch."* [3] *We found Mrs. Griffin first. Come to the "Crier," Mrs. G.; you can drop the kid off at the library.*

WHERE IS YORK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY?

Grafton Shopping Center,
Route 17

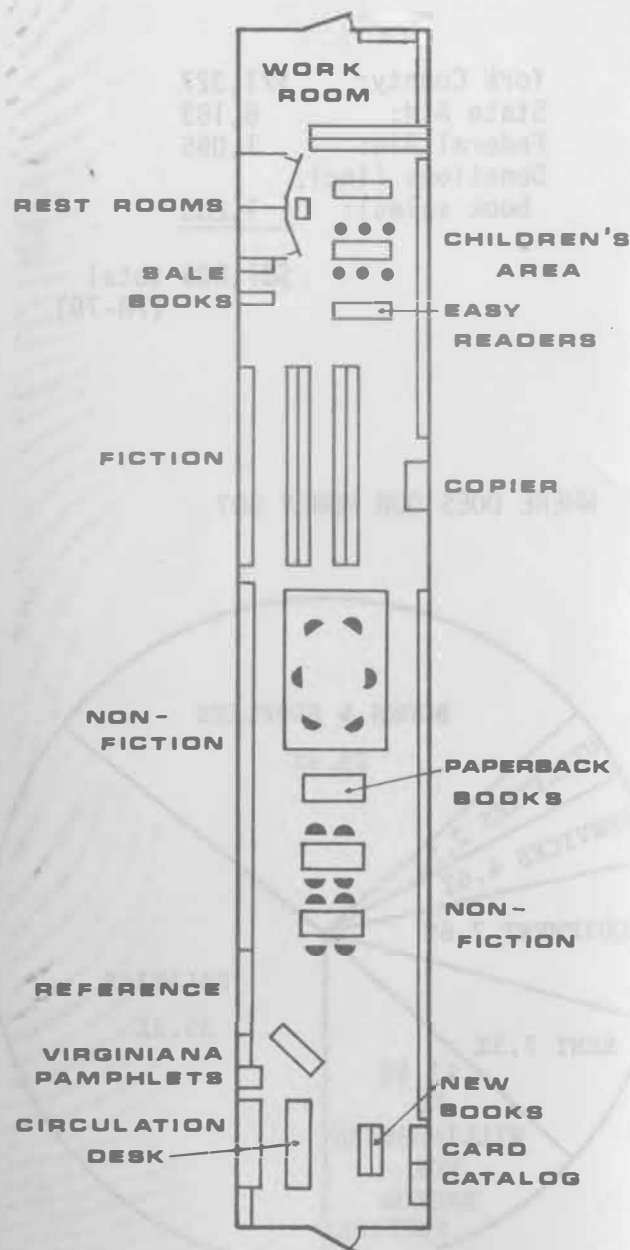


Present space: 2,500 sq. ft.

Space needed: 15,000 sq. ft.

We need:

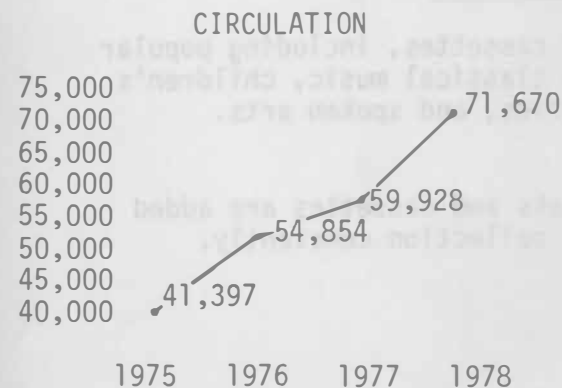
- More space for books & shelves.
- More (and quieter) space for study area.
- More (and separate) space for children's area.
- Separate room for movies and meetings.
- Space for periodicals and newspapers.
- More work space for staff.
- Office space for Librarian.
- Storage space.



FLOOR PLAN
YORK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



York County Public Library



HOW DO WE SERVE?

HOURS OPEN: 44 per week

Mon. - Fri.: 10-4; 7-9
Saturday: 10-2

BOOK COLLECTION

4,966 adult fiction
5,928 non-fiction & reference

4,103 juvenile & easy fiction
1,079 juv. non-fiction & ref.

14,990 total as of Dec., 1978

Plus: 1,500 fiction paperbacks

Plus: Large pamphlet collection

Plus: Periodicals: Facts on File;
Consumers Report; National Geographic; Virginia Cavalcade

TAPE CASSETTES

265 cassettes, including popular and classical music, children's stories, and spoken arts.

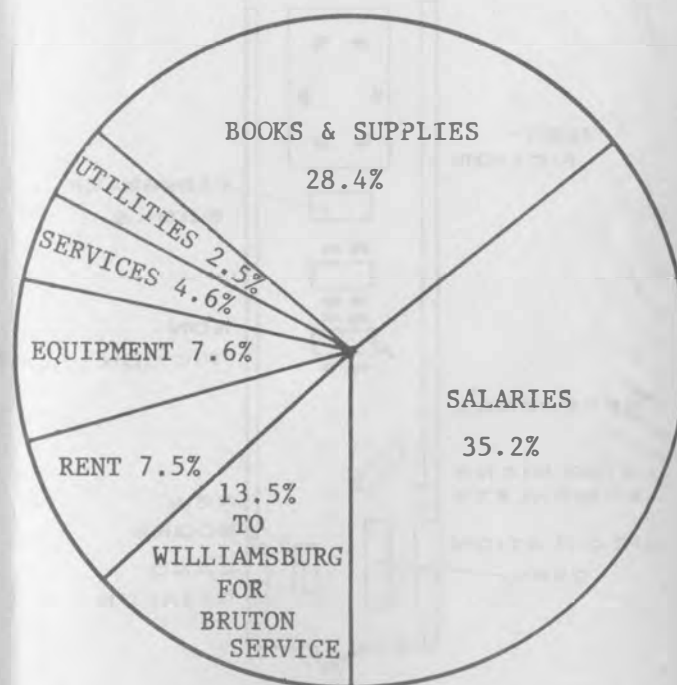
New books and cassettes are added to the collection constantly.

WHERE DOES OUR MONEY COME FROM?

York County: \$71,327
State Aid: 8,183
Federal Aid: 1,095
Donations (incl.
book sales): 1,200

\$81,805 total
(78-79)

WHERE DOES OUR MONEY GO?



ADDITIONAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Preschooler's story hour and film, weekly

Reading incentive program for children in Grades 3-7, during summer

Children's movies, during vacation and holidays

Library services for summer playground program

Free "Picture Pages"

VIRGINIA COLLECTION

A growing collection of books about Virginia and Virginians, of special interest to genealogists.

FILM BORROWING

We can borrow movie films, at no cost, from the Virginia State Library, for the non-profit use of groups or organizations.

COLLEGE CATALOGS

We maintain, as far as possible, an up-to-date collection of catalogs from all Virginia colleges.

INFORMATION HANDOUTS

In addition to announcements of local cultural events and community affairs, the library has handouts available from Leisure Services, Extension Service, Public Broadcasting, etc.

Earthlings Gather at Library

GRAFTON — On the second Sunday afternoon of each month, conversation at the York Public Library turns to lasers, phasers and quarks. Or maybe star drives and space-warps.

If a UFO lands in the Grafton Shopping Center and a BEM (bug-eyed monster) gets out waving its tentacles, the science fiction fans of "HaRoSFA" will be ready. They'll invite the ET (extraterrestrial) into the library for a friendly chat.

The Hampton Roads Science Fiction Association (HaRoSFA) is a motley crew of individualists with free-wheeling ideas on just about everything. They also believe in having a good time.

HaRoSFANS range from 14 to 40-plus, and occupations run the gamut from poet and ship captain to physicist and engineer. All share one consuming passion — science fiction. For some, the main interest is books; others tune in to movies, television or art. Most simply enjoy the intellectual climate.

"We all like to talk," says Ida Simmons, a teacher at Gloucester High School. "Who does that anymore? People sit around watching TV."

Conversation centers mostly around what fans call SF ("sci-fi" is a despised media term), but any lively topic will do. You might hear NASA physicist Ivan Clark describing polynomials of constant diameter (an obscure mathematical concept), student Terry Gray rating the local pizza parlors, or ship expert Norman Cubberly reminiscing about the famous San Diego scow "Egabrag" (garbage spelled backwards).

At a typical Sunday meeting, salesman John Kaiser throws cold water on a hot topic: telekinesis. Debunking the claimed ability to move

objects with the mind, he asks: "Where does the energy come from?"

"Electrical impulses from the brain," suggests poet Serena Fusek. "But even if I could do it, I'd still rather use my hands."

"You don't carry out the garbage," mutters her husband John.

The talk shifts to SF conventions ("cons"). Ira Kaplowitz, the club's raconteur, launches into a story about the time FBI agents raided the Worldcon in Phoenix looking for illegal "Star Wars" merchandise.

"You can't believe these guys," he says. "They didn't even have decent badges. They flashed these crumby green things that looked like supermarket cards."

Computer programmer Charlotte Yielding has the

latest on the bald heroine of the unreleased "Star Trek" movie.

"I read that she has to shave twice a day to prevent five o'clock shadow."

"That's a bald-faced lie," puns Cubberly, to a chorus of groans.

Electronics whiz Ken Cate plugs in a homemade micro-computer and listens to its plaintive bleep while the group hashes over a proposed bagel party.

HaRoSFA has a social and business meeting the third Thursday of each month at the Peninsula Nature and Science Center in Newport News at 7pm. A discussion group meets the second Sunday of each month at the York Public Library in Grafton at 3pm. Earthlings and BEMS are welcome.

Around town

Times Herald 6/26/79

It's movie time at York library

Free movies will be shown twice a week this summer to elementary age children at the York County Public Library in Grafton Shopping Center.

Movie time on Tuesdays is 2 p.m., and on Wednesday it's 10 a.m. Movies last from 45 minutes to one hour. Pre-school children may attend, but they must be accompanied by an adult.

Movies will be shown through Aug. 8.

6/22/79

CRIER

Library

GRAFTON — Summer activities at the York Library get underway this month with a Circus Fun Reading Club for children in grades 1-6. For every five books read, a club member will win a token good for a Hardee's hamburger — to a limit of four tokens. On August 10, the club plans an end-of-season party, with entertainment by "Pixie" the clown and prizes for the most books read.

Other activities include movies for elementary school children each Tuesday at 2pm and Wednesday at 10am (pre-schoolers welcome with an adult), and a pre-school Story Hour on Thursdays at 10am.

Residents interested in county affairs can check up on what's going on by consulting at the library the minutes of the Supervisors' meetings, the York County Real Estate Atlas and all current county and state publications.

Reading Club Needs Members

YORKTOWN — Children in grades one through six are invited to join the Circus Fun Reading Club at the York County Public Library in the Grafton Shopping Center.

Children may report on up to three books at one time, and are urged to do so during the Summer Movietime hours, which are at 2 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m. Wednesdays.

For each five books read, a child will be awarded a token good for one hamburger at a nearby fast food restaurant. The limit is four tokens.

The last event for the reading club will be a party for all club members at 1 p.m. Aug. 10. "Pixie" the clown will provide the entertainment, and prizes will be given for the most books read during the summer.

In other library activities scheduled for the summer, movies for elementary school-aged children will be shown until Aug. 8. The movies will last from 45 minutes to an hour. Pre-schoolers attending must be accompanied by an adult.

A story hour for pre-schoolers will be held at 10 a.m. Thursdays until Aug. 9.

As part of the York County Department of Leisure Services summer playground program, the library staff and volunteers will visit each of five playgrounds once a week from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to loan books, tell stories and show movies and puppet shows.

The library will visit Queen's Lake Intermediate on Mondays, Charles E. Brown Park on Tuesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Seaford Elementary on Wednesdays, Grafton-Bethel Elementary on Thursdays and Tabb Intermediate on Fridays.

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6/16/79

Pixie Weaves Magic

GRAFTON — "Isn't magic fun?"

For 70 wide-eyed children at the York Public Library August 10, the answer was a resounding "Yes!"

Janet Clinton of Norfolk, nationally known as the "South's leading lady magician," puzzled and delighted the kids with tricks that had them demanding: "Wow, how'd she do that?"

As Pixie the clown, in whiteface with a red sequin on her nose and wearing a wig like a displaced rainbow, Ms. Clinton presented her magic show at a party for the

library's Circus Fun Reading Club.

With an occasional assist from her pint-sized audience, Pixie turned a wooden dwarf into a giant, sprayed a drooping flower with a bottomless pitcher of water, and popped Ralph the rabbit out of a box. (A natural-born ham, Ralph stole the show with the twitch of a whisker.)

Clinton, who was voted 1979's Best Stage Magician of the Year by the International Brotherhood of Magicians, gets a special pleasure out of performing for children.

"I love to watch their faces," she says.

Pixie's appearance, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, marked the end of the library's summer reading program open to students in grades 1-6. At a special drawing, five of the 44 students who had read 20 or more books were awarded tickets to Busch Gardens.

William Doggett of Jethro Lane in Grafton was top reader with 60 books.

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Pixie the Clown [Jane Clinton to her friends] will perform for children of the York Library Club on Thursday, August 10, sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Story Hour

YORKTOWN — The York County Public Library will hold a pre-school story hour at 10 a.m. each Wednesday beginning Sept. 12.

Volunteer story tellers will be Mrs. Jamie Katzberg and Mrs. Linda Mineck.

Library Goes Circus

GRAFTON — Dixie the Clown enchanted about 70 youngsters at the York County Public Library here Friday afternoon at the conclusion of the library's Circus Fun summer reading program.

Dixie, also known as Janet Clinton, a magician from Virginia Beach, highlighted a party sponsored by the Friends of the York County Public Library. The Friends also provided refreshments for the children from the first through sixth grades.

Beverly Dudley, head librarian, said 196 children participated in the reading program which started June 12. Prizes were awarded to children who read the most books during that time and filled out brief reports on the books.

William Doggett won first prize for reading the most books, 60, during the program. Four other children, all having read more than 20 books, were given prizes after a special drawing.



Staff photo by Michael

Assistant librarian Clare Stifft checks out books in York Library, located in Grafton Shopping Center storefront.

Library needs room to grow

By SUSAN HAYDEN
Times-Herald Staff Writer

Despite nine new stacks, the books at York County Public Library will "outstrip shelving this coming year," says Librarian Beverly Dudley.

The new stacks, which will arrive during the coming year, will hold 1,350 new books. But the library increased last year by about 2,200 books, and "we can expect at least that again," Mrs. Dudley says.

And the new shelves will take up almost all the remaining floor space in the long, narrow room that houses the library at Grafton Shopping Center.

The library currently has about 2,500 square feet of space, but Mrs. Dudley thinks it needs as much as 15,000. She bases that figure on standards set by State Library Board, calling for libraries to have about 0.6 square feet per person in the locality. For York County, that would put the standard over 18,000 square feet.

A little relief may be in sight for the library, however. York County Department of Public Works is planning a possible move for the library to the Garrison building on Route 17, not far from the library's current location.

The move would approximately double the library's space, and although still short of the space the library needs, the move would allow the library to do some things it hasn't been able to up until now.

The Garrison building has a meeting room that the library would probably be able to use, according to Director of Public Works Al Farling.

Your neighbors in York / Poquoson

Mrs. Dudley is anxious to have a library with a meeting room. "I think that's an important library function these days," she said.

Currently, when the library shows summer movies for children, the projector and screen are set up in the middle of the library, and adult browsers have to work around the children in the dark.

Other items Mrs. Dudley feels a library needs are a separate space for the children's area, a separate children's librarian, space for magazines and newspapers, work space for the staff, and a larger study area. Currently, Mrs. Dudley estimates about 10 students could study at tables at the library at one time.

A move to the Garrison building couldn't take place before December 1980, says Farling, and a lot of preliminary work remains to be done to effect the move by then. Negotiations with Ken Garrison, owner of the building, are still under way.

The Garrison building already houses the York County Department of Social Services, and the County Health Department is moving

in this week.

But Mrs. Dudley hopes the new location will be temporary. What she dreams of is a new library.

"We know we have inadequate library facilities," notes Acting Planning Director Kathy Messenger. A new library is part of the planning commission's five-year improvement program and is scheduled for 1982.

York Supervisors have not yet approved plans for a new library, however. They approve capital improvements only one year at a time.

The planning department estimates a new library would cost about \$850,000, including land acquisition and construction.

But Ms. Messenger noted that probably the only way the county could get much money for a library would be with general obligation bonds that would go before the public in a referendum.

Library improvements can be financed by federal revenue sharing funds, says Mrs. Dudley, but there is "little chance of getting

it for libraries because there are too many higher priorities."

Mrs. Dudley worries about whether the public would pass a bond referendum for a new library. "People get excited about anything that costs money," she said.

Meanwhile, the planning department is beginning a study of current and future library needs. Planning department member Robert McNamara is conducting the study, and will distribute a questionnaire to library users later this year.

Mrs. Dudley expects library staff members will find out how cramped they really are this fall.

"In summer the circulation is so high we don't realize how bad off we are until fall, when all the books come in," she says.

The library had a circulation of 83,000 books last year, with a collection size of about 16,000. "The books we have stay busy," notes Mrs. Dudley.

That circulation has doubled since 1975, when it was just over 40,000.

The library has recently begun carrying tape cassettes, which Mrs. Dudley says are very popular. The library also supplies books to the York County jail inmate library with the help of federal aid.

But its pamphlet collection is small, and, other than Consumer Reports, it subscribes to few magazines because of a lack of space. The library has a donated collection of National Geographic magazines.

A county citizens group, Friends of York Public Library, has been supportive to the library, notes Mrs. Dudley.

York Library Hours

GRAFTON — The York County Public Library in the Grafton Shopping Center will extend its hours from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday beginning Monday.

How To Be A Friend

YORKTOWN — Elementary school students will make posters to illustrate how to be a friend to the library from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday in the York County Public Library.

Posters from the event, which is conducted by the Friends of the York County Public Library, will be displayed in area businesses.

Friends is now conducting a membership drive. Application forms are now available in the library, or for more information, call 898-6382.

Library Hours Extended

GRAFTON — For the first time since moving into the Grafton Shopping Center, the York Public Library will offer unbroken hours through the afternoon and evening. Beginning Monday, September 17, the library will be open 10am-9pm Monday through Friday. Saturday hours will remain the same: 10am-2pm.

"We got a lot of requests for extension," said librarian Beverly Dudley, "We've final-

ly eliminated the gap between the afternoon and evening hours."

Mrs. Dudley says the new hours will be convenient for people who can now stop in after work and for students who attend school until 3:30pm.

"We hired an extra clerk to cover the new hours," said Mrs. Dudley. "I hope we get enough business."

Yorktown Man To Attend Conference On Libraries

John A. Chappell of Yorktown is among eight Virginia delegates scheduled to attend a White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services in Washington Thursday through Monday.

Chappell, an electronic engineer employed by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory at Fort Eustis, was named one of the 10 top federal handicapped employees of the year in 1977.

The White House conference Chappell will attend will cover recommendations for a National Library Act. The act, drafted by Sen.

Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) is to provide federal financing for libraries throughout the country.

The act also proposes establishing a national library agency to coordinate cooperation, information and research; a financing formula to shift public library money from local taxpayers to state and federal governments; and expanding library construction program.

It also proposes federal money for special library services to the illiterate, unemployed, disabled, handicapped and institutionalized; library cooperation on all government levels

and financial help for heavily-used libraries; and inservice training for community-oriented library staff responsibilities.

According to the Urban Libraries Council, the Kennedy-Javits bill is needed to help solve the financial crisis faced by libraries. Over 80 percent of public library costs are paid by local governments.

On Wednesday, a public hearing will be held in Richmond on full-public financing for libraries in the state.

The Virginia Library Association and other parties are to appear before the Library

Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee to give testimony on full financing.

The hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the General Assembly Building Appropriation Committee Room.

The state association said increased state aid is needed because no library services are available in many counties. The aid is also needed because Virginia libraries, on the average, meet one-half of the minimum standards for library materials and financial support; the cost of books has increased; and localities pay 92 percent of public library budgets.

CHRISTMAS FILM PROGRAM

The York Public Library will present its annual Christmas film program, for children aged six to twelve, on December 20th, 21st, and 22nd. The films will be shown on those days at 10:30 in the morning and repeated at 1:30 in the afternoon. Each showing should last approximately 90 minutes. A list of scheduled films is below.

THURSDAY 12/20/79

The Good Little Gremlin
Runaway Railway
The Astronauts

FRIDAY 12/21/79

The Ugly Duckling
Mischief
Came the Brawn
The Merry-go-round Horse

SATURDAY 12/22/79

Dragon Stew
Flash, the Teenage Otter
Doughnuts



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Books Behind Bars

by Margaret Cubberly

YORKTOWN — It's a small room with bars on the window and no amenities, but for inmates at the York County Jail it represents a chance to expand their horizons through reading. The former storage area is the new jail library, a collection of paperback books and magazines provided by the York Public Library under a federal grant.

Sheriff's Deputy Sherry Leonard took on a third job (she is also a paramedic nurse) when she was put in charge of the library after "a crash course in an hour and a half" from York librarian Beverly Dudley.

The recreational reading program was recommended by the State Department of Correction, and is being carried out in cooperation with Sheriff A. S. White by the county library using federal funds earmarked for special "outreach" services. So

far the library has provided the jail with 300 paperbacks, and a dozen magazines are on order.

The "library" doesn't fit the conventional picture of a comfortable booklined room. There is only a long table and one chair, two revolving book racks and a magazine stand. A few posters brighten the bare walls. But the small collection of mysteries, westerns and science fiction (along with such diverse non-fiction as "Profiles in Courage" and "Chariots of the Gods") offers inmates a change from watching TV or exercising on the walkways outside their cells.

Once a week, each cell — which may have two or three inmates — is given ten minutes to choose books from the library, and they're checked out under Mrs. Leonard's supervision. (Even prisoners in isolation get a turn).

"We've had a very good

response," says Mrs. Leonard. "They were eager to start using the library and we've averaged about 27 books a week."

Sports have been most popular with the inmates (numbering about 14) who tend to be young males in their 20's and 30's. But not all reading is recreational. Prisoners can apply in writing for any book or magazine available at the York Public Library.

"We have one young man around 20 who is extremely interested in electronics," says Mrs. Leonard. "Mrs. Dudley provided him with some excellent basic textbooks."

Is any material considered undesirable for a jail library?

"We wouldn't want a book on how to make explosives," smiles the deputy, "and we avoid *Playboy* and *Hustler*."

There are a few religious tracts on the magazine rack (local churches donate pamphlets) and, says Mrs.

Leonard, "the prisoners look to see if they're there, but they don't do anything about it." What they really look at are the posters which the tall, soft-spoken deputy picked out herself.

"I've seen them all stand and read that one," she says, "sometimes more than once."

Above the magazine rack, a picture of a snow-covered slope carries the words: "It is easier to go down hill than up, but the view is from the top."

□

Donations for the library are welcome, especially books and magazines on sports, *Reader's Digest* condensed books, general paperbacks and comics. Donors should indicate that materials are for the jail and bring them to the York Public Library at the Grafton Shopping Center. Games and small puzzles are also needed and can be left at the York County Jail in Yorktown. □

Changes At Library

"Are you open now?"

"When do you open?"

"When do you close?"

"Will you be open at 6 o'clock?"

The staff of the York Public Library is prepared to answer many questions, but the one most frequently asked concerns the hours the library is open for business. The library's hours used to be somewhat unusual, but since additional staff was added in September, the library has been able to keep its doors open from 10 in the morning until 9 in the evening. Saturday hours remain 10am-2pm and the library is closed Sundays.

Another change: York County is switching to the Centrex phone system effective Monday, January 21, and the new number for the library will be 898-0077.

M.E. Tyrell

YORK TOWN CRIER: January 24, 1980

LIBRARY LEADERS

The York County Library Board has reelected Mrs. Betty Rogers of Queens Lake to another year as chairman. Mrs. Penny Nichols of Marlbank was elected vice-chairman.

Eric Sheriff, the new member appointed to succeed Mrs. Kitty Ensley, was elected along with Mrs. Rogers to attend a seminar for public library trustees to be held Friday in Richmond.

Mrs. Peggy Buchanan and Mrs. Nichols received certificates of appreciation from York's Kiwanis Club for presenting to the club a program on the library. Library Board members are glad to present it to any interested group in the county — call Kitty Ensley at 898-0050, or at 898-9013 (home) for a booking.

Planners to devise construction list despite possible gap in York funds

By SUSAN HAYDEN
Times-Herald Staff Writer

YORK — County planning commissioners will be rating capital improvements projects this week in an attempt to develop a recommendation for the Board of Supervisors by Feb. 18.

Despite a belief on the part of some commissioners that considering the projects with no regard to amount of available funds will result in an unrealistic "shopping list," commissioners voted unanimously to proceed with the priority listing.

Each commissioner will individually

assign a priority number of one to five to approximately 40 projects listed in the preliminary five-year plan.

Improvement projects may also be deleted or added on each individual list for consideration by the entire commission.

The estimated total cost, if all were to be approved, is \$27.8 million for the five-year period.

The Board of Supervisors requested the commission consider the projects without a budget estimate after the planners requested more information on the procedure they were to take.

Each county department head is speaking to the board to explain its capital improvements requests.

Tuesday, Public Works Director Alan J. Farling and Library Board member Elizabeth Rogers explained their requests.

School Superintendent Donald S. Bruno, Fire Chief Wallace Robertson and Director of Leisure Services Robert Kraus answered questions about their projects last week, and Director of Utilities Clement Tingley is scheduled to attend a commission meeting next week.

Some of the projects which con-

cerned commissioners most are:

- Purchase of the Garrison Building on Route 17 for \$800,000 — distributed over a four-year period — to provide space for a bigger county library and possibly additional space for health department and social services offices already located there.

The library board is concerned more with finding additional space in general than specifically moving to the Garrison Building, Mrs. Rogers told commissioners.

- Acquiring two acres of park service land for a site for the Yorktown Creative Arts Center. Commissioners expressed concern that the county would be spending \$40,000 in a land swap with the National Park Service to accommodate a private corporation.

- Spending an additional \$215,000 to build a maintenance facility on the county's proposed new landfill facility. Commissioners said they hoped the county would consolidate maintenance facility needs as much as possible.

- Spending \$245,000 on the dirt street program in 1981. Commissioners say they have asked the project be deleted for the last three years.

- Further development of New Quarter Park, which would cost the county about \$500,000 over the next two years.

- Increasing equipment appropriations for the Department of Leisure Services, estimated to cost \$68,000 over the next two years, so it can take over maintenance of school grounds.

The commission tentatively plans to meet Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. to consider individual priority lists and begin compiling a final list of recommendations.

Budget Accepted

DAILY PRESS-MARCH 14 1980

YORKTOWN — The York County supervisors officially began the budget process for the next fiscal year at a work session Thursday when they accepted the Capital Improvements Program developed by the county planning commission.

The planning commission has recommended a list of projects for the next year for consideration by the board.

County Administrator Richard E. Bain will use the commission's recommendations in preparing his proposed budget.

The planning commission's recommendations are high on fire and rescue priorities and low on projects they felt would serve only small segments of the county's population, such as the dirt streets program.

One of the projects is relocation or expansion of the county library.

The library faces severe overcrowding in its present location in the Grafton Shopping Center.

Supervisors directed librarian

Beverly Dudley and the county library board to conduct a survey of available property and options in expanding the library to present to the board.

The library board is also preparing a survey to determine if county residents would be receptive to a bond issue to finance construction of a new library.

Given the county's financial limitations, supervisor Rodgers A. Smith said "If we ever build a new library it's going to be through a bond issue."

The supervisors agreed to consider at next week's regular meeting a proposal from school Superintendent Donald Bruno to apply for state loan money to improve the heating and air conditioning systems at two county schools.

Bruno said the school system would like to borrow the money for improvements to finance conversion to heat pumps at Tabb and Queen's Lake Intermediate Schools at a cost of \$500,000.

York Library In Big Squeeze

By DAVID GIBSON
Staff Reporter

GRAFTON — It may not be long before York Public Library patrons will have to keep their eyes on the floor while scanning the stacks for their favorite novel. In fact, their favorite novel might soon be kept in a box on the floor.

The need for more library space in York County is one of the rare county issues that almost everybody agrees on.

Almost everybody also agrees that there's not enough money in the county coffers to finance relocation.

According to county librarian Beverly Dudley standards recommend six-tenths of a square foot of space for each person in the library's service area.

For York county that would equal 19,000 square feet. Mrs. Dudley said 15,000 square feet would probably be adequate for York's needs.

Just the difference in those two figures is about twice as much as the 2,500 square feet the library calls home.

The county-supported library is in a storefront in the Grafton Shopping Center, but began in 1968 as a project of the York Volunteers in a house on Route 17. The next year the county began assisting by paying rent for the facility.

The library moved to its present location in 1971 and a November 1975 expansion project almost doubled its space to its current capacity.

"We kind of wormed our way in (to the county budget)," Mrs. Dudley said of the gradual increase of county support. "But we didn't become a line item for a long time."

The current county budget includes \$92,386 for libraries.

"The financial support for this facility is adequate. What we need now is a library," Mrs. Dudley said.

Mrs. Dudley requested \$1 million in the current capital improvements plan to finance construction of a 15,000 square foot library on a 2½ acre site. The county planning commission placed that request low on their priority list and didn't suggest financing until 1983 and 1984.

The commission recommended a \$38,000 capital improvements allocation for renovations "in recognition that some solution must be found to the lack of space."

Library and county officials virtually abandoned a proposal to relocate the library in the Garrison Building in Grafton. That move would have increased library space to about 4,200 square feet.

"We see a move to the Garrison Building as a detour," Mrs. Dudley said.

"Since the library came into existence the goal was for a library located in a building constructed as a library. We think we paid our dues."

This brings the library to what Mrs. Dudley calls the "critical test" ... money.

There is not now, nor is it soon expected to be, \$1 million in the county budget to finance library construction.

This leads to the conclusion supervisor Rodgers A. Smith made at a recent work session. "If it's ever going to be built it's going to be built through a bond referendum."

The county planning department began a survey of library needs, but the planner in charge left the county staff, leaving the survey in limbo.

The plan called for three surveys — one to be circulated at the library, another to be mailed to random samples of county residents, and another for Bruton District county residents near

Williamsburg.

Hopefully, the survey would give an idea not only of the needs in the community, but also a feel for whether residents would be willing to support a bond issue.

Elizabeth C. Rogers, children's librarian at Magruder Elementary School and president of the county library board, said most local libraries in the state were financed through bond issues. "We're optimistic (about the issue) because we have recognition from the supervisors and citizens that the library is a valid need," she said.

"No facility that small can adequately meet the needs of the county," said supervisor Shirley Cooper, a school teacher and frequent user of library services. "We need to look at short-term goals for providing more space but we also need to develop some long-term plans. But the only way to build (an adequate library) is through a bond issue."

If a bond issue was approved by county residents and construction began almost immediately, Mrs. Dudley estimates it would take about three years, minimum, before the library moved into a new home.

"Three years in this place without more space could be a nightmare," Mrs. Dudley said. "By then we would have eliminated our lounge area. Our shelves are about as high as they can go now."

Of the county's approximately 32,000 residents, 12,500 hold library cards, according to library board figures.

Last year 96,000 items were checked out of the library, an increase of 25,000 from the previous year.

The library board estimates the annual cost of operating the facility is about the price of one paperback book per resident.

But in part that low cost may be attributable to services the library does not offer.

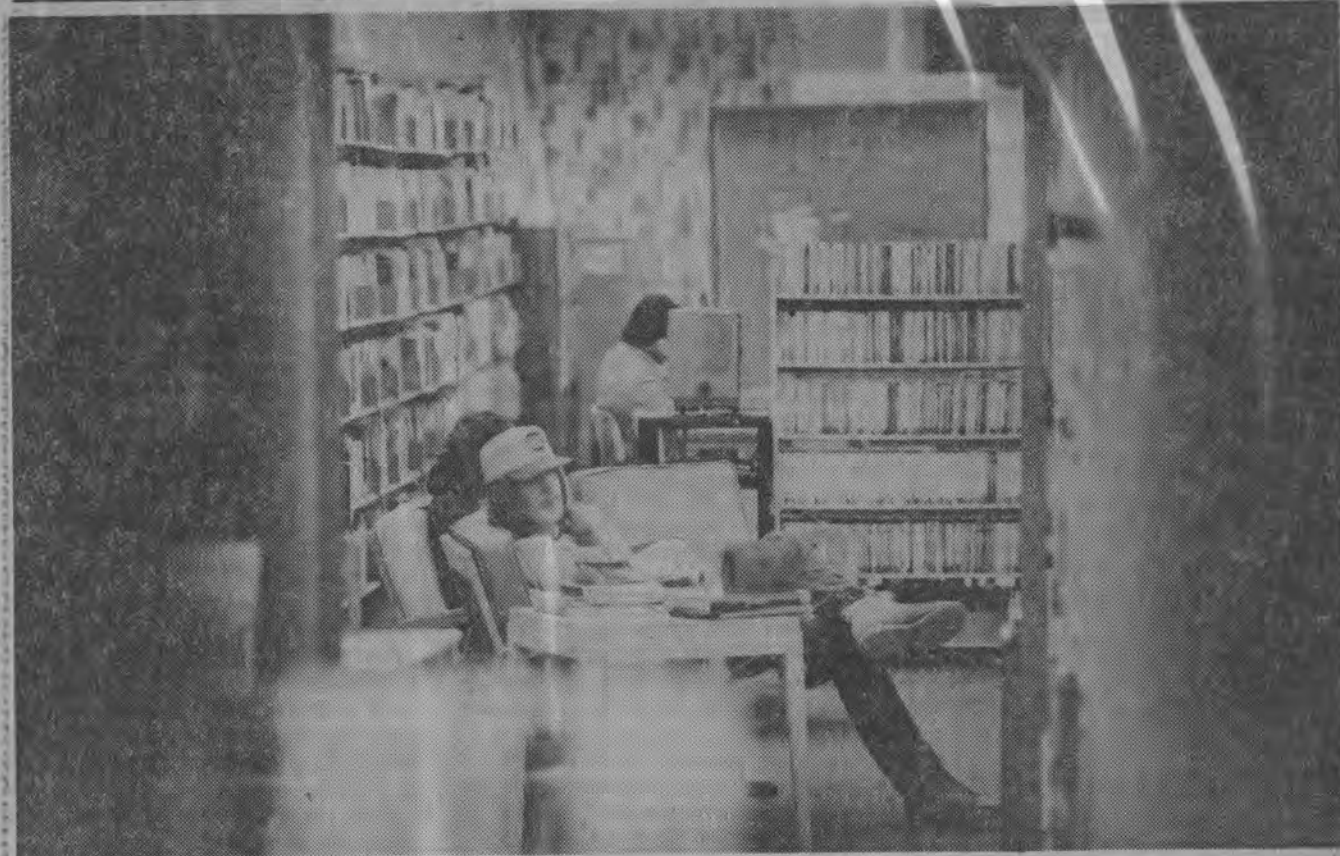
The county library subscribes to very few periodicals because of limited storage. The building also lacks space for a conference-community room, reading room, reference room, work room, children's department or a librarian's office.

"Now service is limited because we're squeezed into 2,500 square feet," Mrs. Rogers said.

Mrs. Dudley is optimistic that one day, hopefully soon, there will be a public library to meet the needs of the county residents.

"I like to think we have a special place and might have a chance (for financing) where other county departments and agencies might not," Mrs. Dudley said.

"Even if people don't use the library they support the concept. I just hope they would support a nice library rather than a cheap one. Something they can point to and be proud of."



Bookshelves may soon replace library's lounge area.

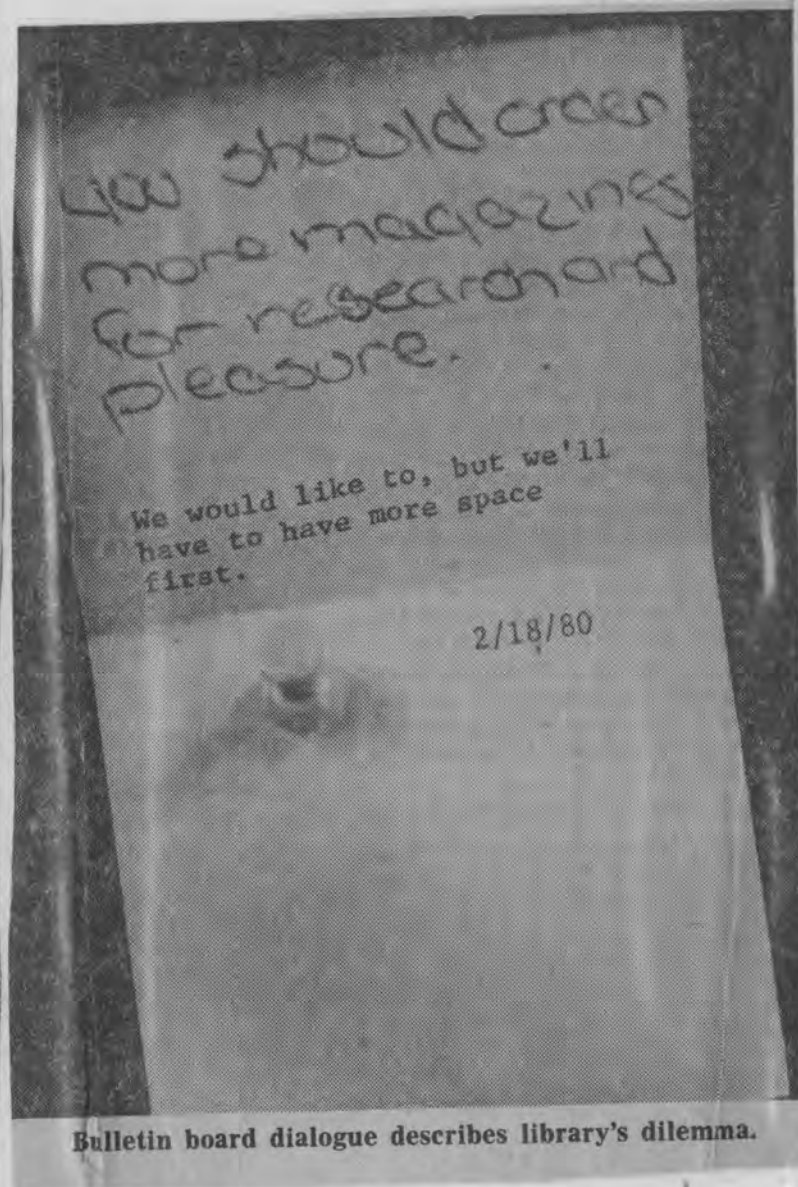


Magazines donated to the library are stored in boxes for lack of space.

(Staff Photos By Thom Slater)



The county library is in the Grafton Shopping Center.



Bulletin board dialogue describes library's dilemma.

Libraries haven't

In 1930, the first year of the Great Depression, circulation at Virginia's public libraries jumped 24 percent from the previous year.

Jobless, moneyless citizens found help with finance and home repair problems in the books on library shelves as well as a source of inexpensive entertainment in novels and children's books.

Libraries now are reporting a similar surge in popularity as the nation battles high inflation and the danger of a recession before the year is out.

Are Peninsula libraries able to meet this increased demand for their services?

That's the question The Times-Herald posed to Peninsula librarians as they observe National Library Week this week.

While there are plenty of books, magazines, records and tapes available at the drop of a library card, some of the libraries will be hard-pressed spacewise to accommodate more people, the librarians admit.

"Our problem is probably going to be space rather than money or books," says York County Librarian Beverly Dudley.

Her storefront library in Grafton Shopping Center holds 20,000 volumes but shelves no magazines or tapes because "we can't do anything else but house books."

She's already witnessed a 38 percent increase in borrowing compared to last year, which she attributes to the economy, more operating hours and a decline in the quality of television programming.

Expected completion of an addition to the Poquoson Public Library at 49 Odd Way is the only way Librarian

Elizabeth Tai sees of handling more people there.

"Circulation almost tripled last year," she says, as the library dropped its \$2 membership fee and more local residents found out about the four-year-old facility.

She concurs with the gloomy economic predictions and believes it will lead to more use of her 9,500-volume collection.

"People borrow more books than they buy" in times like these, she says. "And if you have the books they need, normally circulation goes up."

"People want to use the library more" in Williamsburg-James City County, says Williamsburg Regional Library Director Martha Vazquez.

"We'll be here" with a 50,000 volume collection and a wide variety of periodicals and recordings, she says, but adds, "We're just struggling along right now to meet our increased usage" of about 16 percent over last year.

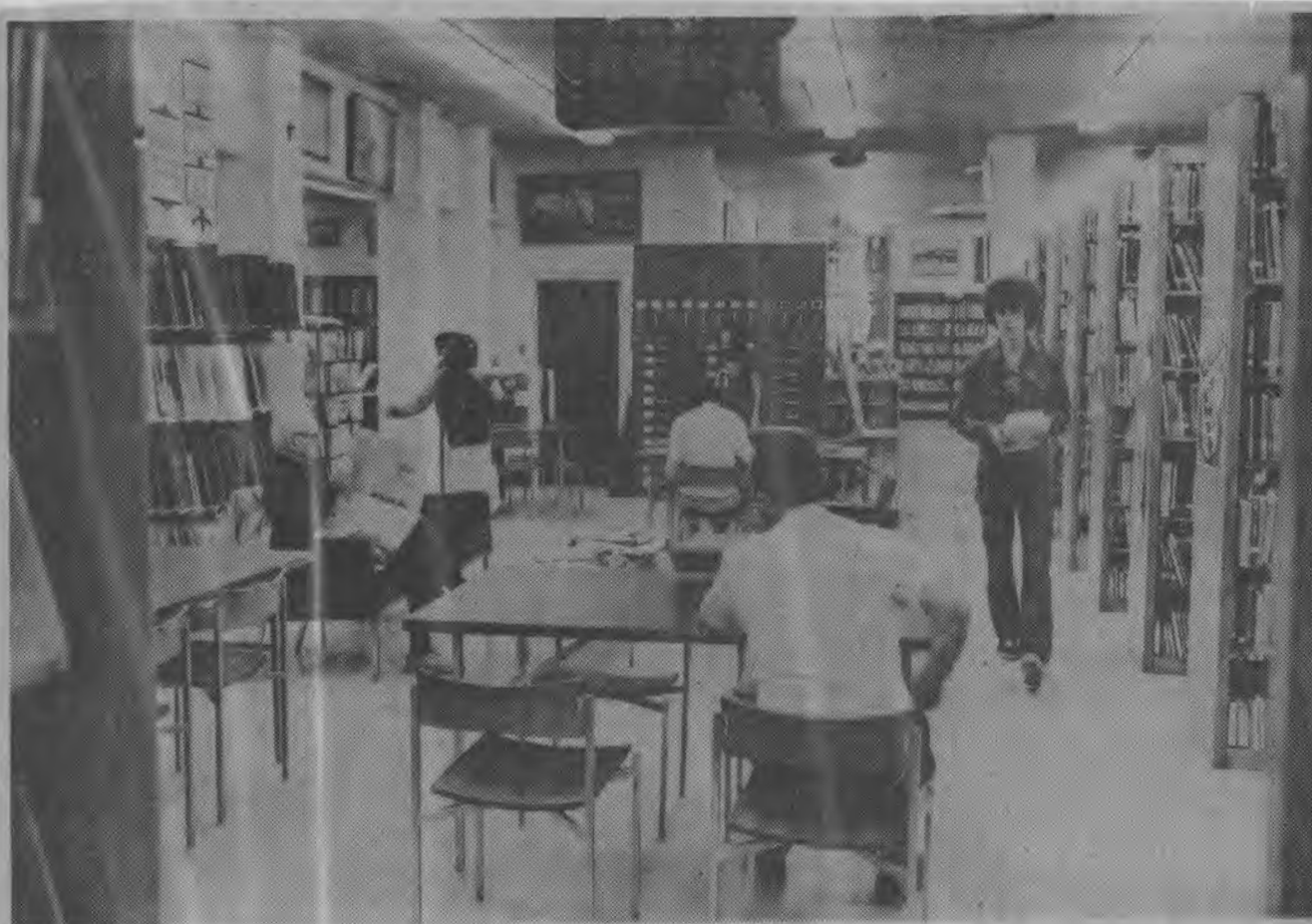
She sees more publicity and special programs at her library as the reasons why the library is at its capacity now. But she also notes that rising subscription rates may be bringing more people in to read the library's magazines and periodicals.

"I'd hate to see a depression, but I'd love to see an increase in circulation," says Newport News Public Library System Director Lottie Driver.

Her 280,000-volume collection includes enough recordings, magazines and even paintings to satiate a drastic increase in use, she says. Circulation is stable, she adds.

But except for the Grissom Branch at 366 DeShazor Drive in Denbigh, Miss Driver says her five libraries often suffer from inadequate space for both peo-

room to spare



Staff photo by Herb Barnes

Main Street library in Newport News, like others, doesn't have enough space for people or cars.

ple and cars.

Other libraries in the Newport news system are at 110 Main St., 30th Street and West Avenue, 2410 Wickham Ave. and a special collection for the blind and physically handicapped at 112 Main St.

Hampton Public Library Director Howard Ogden says his 200,000 books, 7,000 recordings, 450 different periodicals and film and art reproductions should be plenty to satisfy borrowers.

But he echos his colleagues in other localities by adding, "We could not han-

dle any increases in (demand for) reference use or seating spaces."

Libraries in Hampton are at 4205 Victoria Blvd.; 1067 Big Bethel Road (in Bethel High School), 107 E. Howard St., 44 Crenshaw Court and in Willow Oaks Shopping Center.

Great Bargain

That theme is suggested by the American Library Association to mark National Library Week, April 13-19. Two special events have been scheduled at the York County Public Library to honor the week:

- A puppet show, based on the book *Burton and Dudley* by Margaret Sharmat, will be presented during the regular Wednesday (April 16) story hour.

- A popular movie will be shown at the library on Sunday, April 13. The first showing will begin at 1pm. A second showing will begin at 3:15pm (if required). This event is sponsored by the Friends of the York County Public Library. Admission is free! Registration for scheduling purposes is requested. Call 898-6460 or the library (898-0077) for reservations and information.

Mrs. Jacqueline Ingram
Friends of the Library

Call 6/5/80

Library Needs Storytellers

GRAFTON — The York Public Library is hoping a workshop on storytelling will stimulate parents to volunteer for a children's program this summer.

"Most parents were disappointed our program was not going to continue [money is not available this year from the county to hire a storyteller], so we're looking for people who are willing to organize our pre-school story hour," says librarian Beverly Dudley.

The public workshop, to be held at the library Wednesday, June 11, 10am-1:30pm, will feature a talk by children's librarian Therese Bigelow of the Charles Taylor Public Library in Hampton, a movie on literature for children and a demonstration of storytelling.

Parents signing up for the workshop are under no obligation, says Mrs. Dudley. "What we'd like is enough people willing to participate so that no one would have to volunteer more than once or twice for the story hour."

Around town

York library's summer program begins soon

This year's summer program at the York County Public Library will include a reading club, summer movies and preschool story hour.

The preschool story hour will be held for 10 weeks beginning June 26 each Thursday at 10 a.m.

According to librarian Beverly Dudley, the program was in danger of not being held until additional volunteers were found to tell the stories.

This summer's volunteers attended a storytelling workshop held earlier this month.

Summer movies for elementary students will be shown at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and again at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays. The movies last 45 minutes to an hour. Preschoolers are welcome but should be accompanied by an adult.

In addition, elementary students can join the library's reading club, "The Bug of Knowledge." Children may report on up to three books at one time during summer movietime hours, compiling stickers on a "Bug of Knowledge" card. For every five books read, a child will be awarded a token good for one regular hamburger at Hardee's restaurant.

Each child can earn up to four tokens.

Summer library hours at the county library will be 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

Children who live near Williamsburg can also join the Williamsburg Regional Library's reading club, foreign language classes and craft classes. The Williamsburg Library also has preschool story times and films for all ages, as well as a number of special performances.

For more information, call the Williamsburg Library at 229-7326.

YORK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUMMER PROGRAMS



READING CLUB:

Any child who was in grades 1-6 this past school year is invited to join the "Bug of Knowledge" Reading Club. Beginning June 16 and ending August 14, children may report on up to three books at one time as they are returned to the library. The children are asked to report on their books at Summer Movietime hours (see below), but may also report on books at any other time the library is open.

A "Bug of Knowledge" card, showing an ugly bug devouring books, will be kept at the library for each child. For each book read and reported on, a child can add a book sticker to the card to "feed the bug." Also, for each five books read, a child will be awarded a token good for one Hardee's regular hamburger, up to a limit of four tokens.

The final event of the Reading Club will be a party for all club members on Friday, August 15 at 1:30. Entertainment will be provided by Pixie the Magician, and prizes will be awarded for the most books read during the summer.

SUMMER MOVIE TIME:

Movies appropriate for elementary age children will be shown each Tuesday and Wednesday, beginning June 17 and ending August 13. Movietime on Tuesday is at 2:00 and on Wednesdays at 10:00. (The same movies are scheduled for both days.) The movies are scheduled to last from 45 minutes to an hour, approximately. Pre-schoolers are welcome at the movies but must be accompanied by an adult.

VOLUNTEER MOTHERS:

Mothers who accompany their children to Summer Movietime are invited to help with the recording of the book reports. Just let any regular library staffer know you're available, and we'll gladly put you to work!

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR:

The last pre-school story hour will be on May 28. Story hours will resume after school starts in the fall.

REMEMBER OUR REGULAR LIBRARY HOURS: 10 am to 9 pm WEEKDAYS; 10-2 SATURDAYS.

WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL LIBRARY SUMMER PROGRAMS

All children who can read may join the Reading Club, from June 23 to August 1. Three-week classes in beginning German and in sign language will be conducted for children interested in learning another language. Craft classes will include basket-making and papier-mache. Pre-school story times and films for all ages will be part of the summer program. A number of special performances have also been scheduled. Watch your newspaper for details, or call the library at 229-7326.

ws, Virginia, Sunday, June 1, 1980

Area Libraries Say Circulation Is Increasing

By ROSS NEWELL
Staff Reporter

Take a trip without leaving, ride with knights in white satin, sail through a cosmic cloud in a distant universe, use your key to escape reality.

Use it to teach your children well, yourself too.

Use it to find where you're coming from and where you're going.

The key is a library card that can unlock more than secrets in books. The key also unlocks secrets in paintings, recordings and films.

Circulation figures indicate more people are using their keys each year. Inflation is a reason because it's cheaper to borrow something than buy. Library cards cost nothing.

Lottie E. Driver, director of Newport News libraries, said, "Circulation has been going up dramatically in past years, but this year it's not enough to mention."

NOT HERE! High gas costs have kept people from driving to local libraries. Also, Mrs. Driver said, public schools did not make many field trips this year and children were not as aware of libraries as in the past. NOT HERE!

Last year in Newport News circulation was up 6 percent over 1978.

Circulation in Hampton libraries was up 1 percent over last year.

Howard Ogden, director of Hampton libraries, said, "Our circulation would be up more if we had more room inside our facilities and more parking space. Sometimes in the library there is no place to sit."

Ogden also thinks the high gas costs discouraged library use. In Phoebus, where the library is easily reached by walking, circulation increased more than at any other branch.

Circulation is up about 3 percent this year over 1979 at the Walter Cecil Rawls Library in Courtland. Director Bill Swinson said this should increase to 5 percent by July. A 5 percent annual circulation increase is average.

At the Williamsburg Regional Library circulation is up 11 percent over last year. Adults borrowed 13 percent more books and children 8 percent more than in 1979. The library serves Williamsburg, James-City County and part of York County.

At Suffolk's Morgan Memorial Library circulation is up more this year than in previous years.

Director Sherry C. Hanna said a larger collection of popular paper backs and a large donation of recordings helped boost circulation.

Circulation is up 30 percent this year over last at the Smithfield Library. Librarian Emma J. Brady said increased public support and an expanded collection caused the increase.

Library users are often looking for practical information. How-to-do books are very popular, especially repair manuals. Also in demand are books about job hunting, job skills and preparing resumes.

Current best sellers are also popular. "Recent popular novels are hard to get. I'm still on the waiting list for a book. Paper backs really circulate."

Women will come in here and get 20 at a time, and I think they read them all," Mrs. Driver said.

Area librarians also noticed increased interest in genealogy, especially among younger people.

The Gloucester Library has one of the best area Virginia genealogy collections. This collection is popular with people on the Peninsula, said the di-

YORK COUNTY LIBRARY

CIRCULATION IS UP

36% OVER LAST YEAR.

rector.

Besides special sections, libraries also offer special services.

Story hours and summer reading programs are popular with children. Libraries award certificates and other incentives to children reading a certain number of books. Parents are as enthusiastic about the programs as their children, librarians say.

In Newport News there will be more children than room for summer reading programs, Mrs. Driver said.

In Hampton almost 700 children are expected to participate in summer reading programs.

Libraries on wheels are another popular service. Bookmobiles are used primarily by children and elderly who can't get to branches.

The bookmobiles almost became a thing of the past during budget time in Newport News. It was to be discontinued until supporters rallied.

Libraries in Newport News, Hampton and Williamsburg have lunch hour films for businessmen on several subjects. Librarians say attendance is good.

Special services for handicapped include large-print books and tapes and records of popular novels. Newport News has a branch devoted to serving the handicapped at 112 West Main St.

Overcrowding is a problem at many area libraries.

In Hampton and Newport News a shortage of parking space tends to discourage heavier library use, the directors said. Space inside the libraries is also in short supply, especially when it comes to finding a seat.

Ogden said the Hampton library system might open a branch in an empty school.

About one third of the collection is on loan, enabling the system to keep a large number of books.

The Smithfield Library also has a problem with small facilities. Two ad-

ditional rooms will open on the second floor after remodeling for a summer reading program.

In Williamsburg, plans have been drawn for an addition to the main building that will include a theater and meeting rooms.

Librarians said most libraries have outgrown themselves. Most were built when the area population was small and the demand low.

It seems more and more people are using their keys to turn on to libraries.

Library Lacks Resources

by Bill Nachman

GRAFTON — York librarians may be hurting their campaign for expanded quarters by skillfully cramming materials into the present miniscule facility.

"We have made things here reasonably attractive," head librarian Beverly Dudley said, "perhaps too much so, as the place may not appear as jammed as it truly is."

The present library, housed in a 2,500-square-foot storefront at Grafton Shopping Center, has only about one year's worth of shelf space left, Mrs. Dudley explained. At that, many other library services now have to be sacrificed — among them audio-visual aids, modern art for lending, and many items other libraries in Tidewater offer.

"Our board is looking at all possibilities," Mrs. Dudley said, "with the hope for building. Our best bet would be to get a multi-purpose facility to allow for added library services." New construction might necessitate sharing the building with other county agencies, she said.

Besides being inconvenient to many county residents, the present library discourages long visits since "it only has two or three study tables. Some people sit on the rug," Mrs. Dudley said.

The county's capital improvement program notes the state standard for library space is .6 square feet per person in the county. Figured at 33,000 people, the county in theory should provide a library of perhaps 17,000 square feet.

A project description calls for a centrally located 2½-acre site, with circulation, reference and study areas and offices.

The library has begun its annual summer program, despite the lack of space for children to comfortably visit and enjoy story hours and special projects. Students in grades one to six can win free hamburgers donated by Hardee's for reading books.

Circulation has been up in recent months. Not only are the books popular — York has 19,000 titles — but the library's cassette collection is getting lots of use. "We can't keep the popular (rock) tapes on the shelf as teenagers are always coming for them," Dudley said. "Other cassettes such as classical music do not get as many requests."

Magazine subscriptions are minimal; shelf space does not exist.

Preliminary proposals called for the new library to cost over \$1 million. The proposed addition of a trained children's librarian and a library clerk would be funded

mostly by the county, although the report said \$3,000 might be forthcoming from the state.

The present library has been in use since 1971. Earlier efforts were coordinated by the York County Volunteer Association.

As gasoline prices soar, more people may use the

library. "We're free," said Mrs. Dudley, noting it "would be a depressing thought" for the county not to build a new facility to provide space for educational purposes in a time when alternative entertainment is becoming expensive.

Library hours are 10am-9pm, Monday-Friday and 10am-2pm, Saturday.

York library is busting its bookends

By Vivian Breckenridge

The York County Public Library, occupying a former post office building in Grafton Shopping Center, is wedged between an ABC package store and a cleaners. It has been almost too successful for its own good.

In June 1968 York County Volunteer Association announced plans to open a library and asked for help. That September the library opened in an old house adjacent to the Easy Swing Putting Course on Route 17. Nancy Deskins was in charge, and the library was open 15 hours a week.

From these humble beginnings the hours of operation have been expanded fourfold. The holdings have grown from 4,000 volumes in January 1969 to over 20,000 today. The staff has grown from all volunteers, about 45, to six employees, two full-time and four part-time, and about 30 volunteers. The most significant increase has been in circulation, which has grown in a 10-year span from 6,734 per year to 100,000.

The head librarian the past few years, Beverley Dudley, recounted the phases of the library's growth. It was moved

to its present location in July 1971, when the structure contained only 1,500 square feet, but it was adequate for the 6,000 volumes that comprised their holdings at that time. The holdings had grown to 10,000 volumes in 1975, and by fall of that year the building was enlarged by 1,100 square feet.

Today, with double the 1975 inventory, space has become the number-one problem. "All our plans hinge on one thing," Mrs. Dudley said, "the acquisition of more space."

As recently as last December, the Garrison Building was under consideration by the library board. The proposal was turned down because the mere doubling of present space seemed shortsighted in view of the library's history of growth and because of inadequate parking.

"A shopping center location is considered ideal," Mrs. Dudley said, "but rent is usually exorbitant, even in areas adjacent to shopping centers." The library's storefront location has contributed to its growth because of its accessibility.

Has it been a problem having an ABC store for a next-door neighbor? "No," Mrs. Dudley said, we've had an occasional

sleepy-eyed man walk in and, startled by the book-rather than bottle-lined shelves, walk right back out."

What are the possibilities for expansion, which may mean a new library building? A steering committee is being formed by a study group headed by Penny Nichols, vice chairman of the library board. "We are looking for 11 persons

from all walks of life to serve as a steering committee to help us find the means to build the kind of library York County needs," Mrs. Nichols said.

A separate group, a senior advisory board, intended to lend advice and expertise to the board, is also being formed. The next meeting of the board is next Tuesday, July 8. Any person who would like to serve

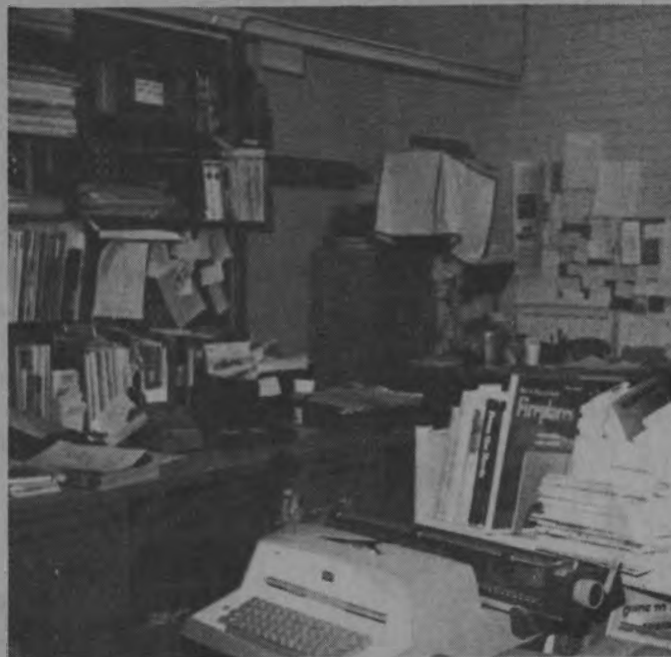
in any capacity for the attainment of a new library may call Penny Nichols at 898-7953.

The county government is the library's biggest funder at \$112,000 annually. The state contributes \$16,000 and the federal government \$1,000 in addition to special grants. This is the typical formula in Virginia, Mrs. Dudley said.

They also receive a \$25 check "regular as clockwork" from the York County Volunteer Association, which formed the first Friends of the Library organization in 1968. That group plans to have a book-stacking contest at its booth at the Yorktown Fourth-of-July celebration, along with information about the needs of the library.

It was in the library's fourth year of operation that a five-member board of directors was established, one from each voting district, selected by its supervisor on a staggered basis. The present chairman is Betty Rogers of Queens Lake, Nichols of Marbank Farms, Bill Stiff of Tabb, Eric Sheriff of Grafton and Peggy Buchanan of Edgehill.

In addition, there are the Friends of the Library, headed by Jackie Ingram. They



The library's work area is as crowded as its shelf space.



The York County Public Library is sandwiched between a liquor store and a dry cleaners.

decorate at Christmas, honor the volunteers with a party in August and help with the summer reading club by hearing the book reports. Each child receives credit for every book read and reported on during summer vacations. For every five books a child reads, a chit good for a regular hamburger at Hardee's is awarded.

Othe summer activities are movies shown on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. There is a pre-school story hour every Thursday morning at 10. Volunteers for story-telling are solicited primarily from the mothers who attend, but all who wish to volunteer are encouraged to call the library.

Despite the limitations of

space, the library has many unique features. "Nothing is perfect," Mrs. Dudley said. "If we suddenly had everything we want, we'd all go into shock." She pointed out the library's special collections: 200 large print books and a new subscription to The Reader's Digest large print condensed novels; a Virginian and genealogy collection; and cassettes for the sight-impaired that are also available to the general public.

The library has an outreach program for county jail prisoners. One of the deputies serves as librarian, and the designation of a room as a library creates the program's eligibility for federal funding.

The library bulletin board cuts through red tape

effectively. Answers are attached to questions that have been tacked up by patrons. To the query "Why don't you get books on dirt bikes?" one of the librarians had responded, "Could you suggest a few good titles?"

Most inquires are requests for specific volumes, to which the reply might be "That book is on order and will be received in six weeks," or "That book is not listed in 'Books in Print'."

Mrs. Dudley's highest praise was for the volunteers, some of whom have served many years. She singled out Selma Lawson and Jane Dreher, who have been coming since 1968, and Connie Fitz, who comes most frequently of all the volunteers.

SCHOOL

Pixie's Magic Charms 'Bugs'



Magician Janet ['Pixie'] Clinton pops mama bear out of her basket [the cubs are hiding] for an enthusiastic audience at the York Public Library.

GRAFTON — The 'Bug of Knowledge' summer reading club at the York Public Library climaxed a two-week reading spree with a party and 'Pixie' the magician.

Janet Clinton of Norfolk, who performs as Pixie, entertained about 60 wide-eyed children with a shape-changing black hat and a couple of now-you-see-them, now-you-don't bear cubs in a basket. And a trio of nine-year-olds from the audience helped out with Pixie's knotty scarf trick: Nancy McCuistion, Tommy Hall and Scott Oster.

Mrs. Clinton, called 'the South's leading lady magician,' is president of the Tidewater 'ring' of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, and is featured in a recent book, *Guide to Magic* by Bill Severn.

Twenty-six children of the 200 'Bugs' in the reading club read more than 20 books, and five of them won tickets to Busch Gardens. Top winners were Helen Newcomb with 116 books read, Joanna Pleasant with 102 and Chris Caldwell with 80. Daniel Package and Amiee Haytor also received tickets.

The party, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, had punch donated by Gibson's, cups and napkins by McDonald's at Heritage Square, and flowers by the Yorktown Flower Shoppe.

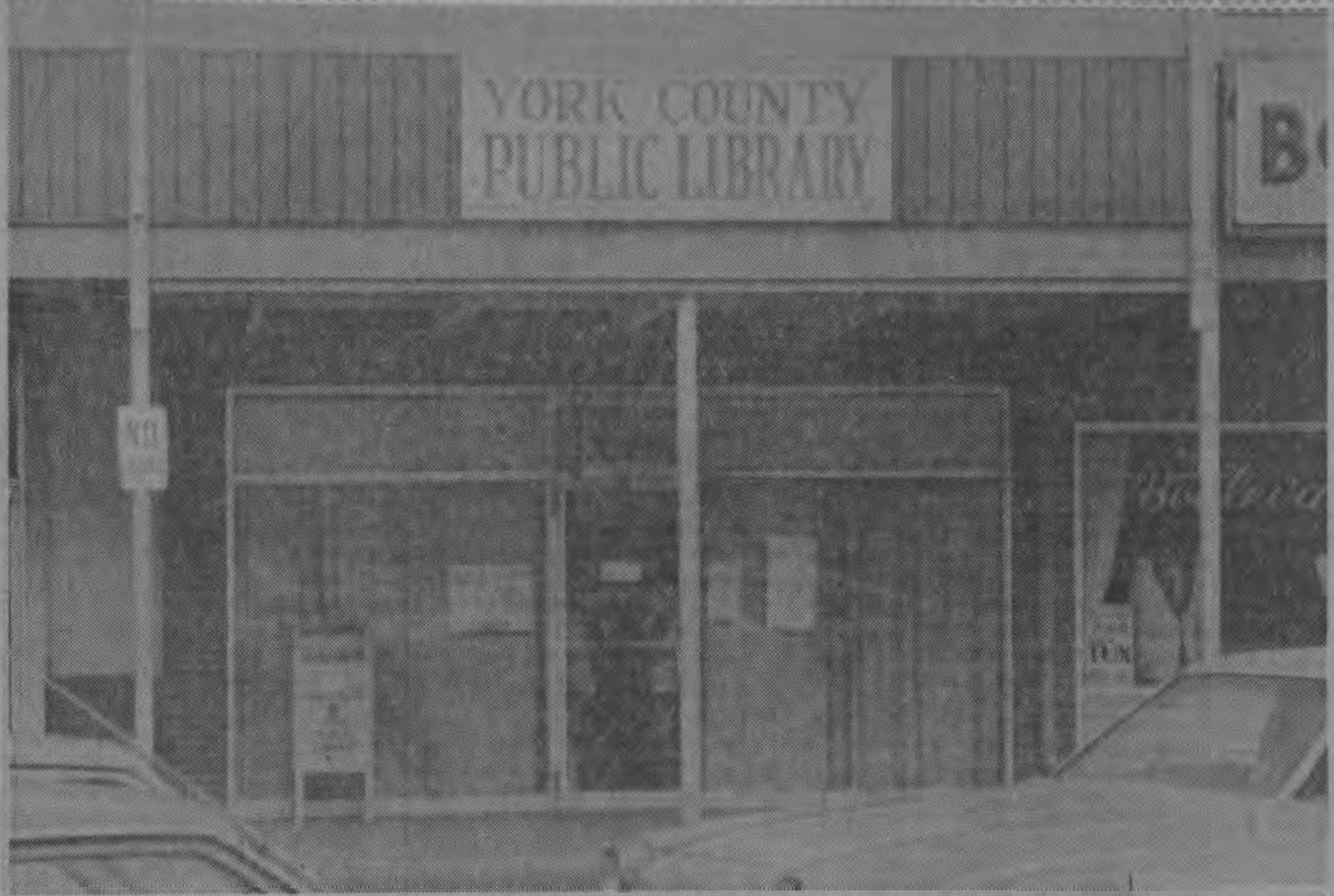
Special-Ed Needs Advisors

GRAFTON — The York County schools are looking for persons interested in serving on the local Special Education advisory committee.

Members will include handicapped persons, parents of the handicapped, and representatives of business, industry, civic organizations and public agencies.

The committee will help the school system determine unmet needs for education of the handicapped, and help develop programs and priorities to meet those needs.

Contact Deborah Conley, supervisor of special education, at 898-0308 before September 30.



Staff photo by JOE FUDGE

The library in the Grafton Shopping Center has needed more space for years, residents believe.

New look for county library may be on the way in York

By **SUSAN HAYDEN**

Times-Herald Staff Writer

YORK — The county library may be on its way to finding a new home, largely because of efforts by local residents.

A library consultant, Hoyt Galvin of Charlotte, N.C., will visit the library next week to begin work on a long-range plan for library services in the county.

That plan, says Librarian Beverly Dudley, could include a program for building a new library and perhaps recommendations for a site.

The county library, sandwiched in Grafton Shopping Center next to a Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board store, has been cramped for space for several years.

Last year, county officials talked of moving the library to the Garrison Building on Route 17, the current home of the county departments of Social Services and Health.

However, Library Board members decided that plan was only a stop-gap measure — they wanted a truly long-range solution.

County planning department staff members have intended to prepare a comprehensive plan for library service eventually, but too many higher-priority needs have kept the library project from being completed, says senior planning department member Kathy Messenger.

"I recognize their need for going ahead and getting something done," she says.

But the people most interested in library service — the Friends of York County Library and Library Board members — thought they could do some things on their own that would, at the least, get them moving in the right direction, says Library Board Chairman Elizabeth Rogers.

"We felt the climate was right" to start working on a plan for a new building, she added.

The consultant's stay here is being sponsored by Friends of York County Library, with some assistance from the library budget.

The consultant's initial work here, says Mrs. Rogers, will cost about \$900. Galvin is charging the groups only one-third of his usual fee, according to Mrs. Dudley.

He has produced library plans for other jurisdictions, including Portsmouth, she adds.

Before making his report, Galvin will look at county population, growth trends, current library services and what county residents want.

In addition to examining other statistical data, he will also look at a survey prepared by the county planning staff. The survey will be distributed in October to gather statistical information on the need for library services.

Library Problem Growing

By DAVID GIBSON
Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — Hoyt Galvin's voice has the tone and inflection of broadcaster Charles Kuralt, who, incidentally, covered the Charlotte, N.C., libraries while a reporter for a Charlotte newspaper when Galvin was the city's library administrator.

And Galvin, who has traveled from Maine to Puerto Rico as a library consultant, has Kuralt's wonderful talent for telling delightful tales. He shared a few of them at lighter moments during his four-hour meeting Monday with members of the York County library board.

But neither Galvin's library expertise nor storytelling abilities were needed as he began the meeting with one brief statement: "All you've got to do is walk into your building to know you've got a problem."

That problem is space. Or lack thereof.

The county library, sandwiched in a storefront between a liquor store and a dry cleaners in the Grafton Shopping Center, has only 2,500 square feet to call its own.

Standard formulas for library space versus service area population would call for about 17,500 square feet to meet the county's library needs based on estimates of 28,000 people in the library's service area, with an additional 7,000 people in the county's Bruton District served by the Williamsburg library.

Galvin doesn't set much stock in formulas, or "horseback figures," as he calls them. "We try to develop libraries according to the community's specific needs rather than some formula."

When the meeting was over Galvin and the board had tentatively arrived at plans for a 11,000 square foot library that could more adequately meet the need while reflecting the "bare bones" philosophy of county taxpayers who support the public services.

The figures were arrived at by library board and staff members who estimated the minimum acceptable space needs for various library functions and activities.

"It's pretty conservative. I don't think you'll find any spaces that are too big," Galvin said. "But (11,000 square feet) is a reflection of the county supervisors conservatism as reflected by the people here (at the meeting)."

Galvin will be in the county today collecting additional information and will then return home to prepare a report on the library's needs. His report is expected to be available to library and county officials in about two weeks.

Galvin said library costs are about \$50 per square foot for the building and \$6 per square foot for the shelves and furnishings.

Added to that would be about \$50,000 in architect's fees and the cost of buying a site for the library.

To be effective the library would have to be in Grafton, near the county's population center, near Route 17.

The cost of buying two to three acres of the prime property near Route 17 is unknown but \$30,000 an acre was one figure mentioned at Monday's meeting.

Library board members are convinced a bond issue referendum would be needed to finance all or most of the project. Galvin's report of the need will be used in a campaign to convince county voters a bond issue would be a good way to finance a good idea.

A steering committee, with a cross-section of county leaders, is being formed to help raise money for the site acquisition.

County librarian Beverly Dudley said there is no timetable set yet to ask the supervisors to hold a referendum or for a building program.

The county planning department was to conduct a library use survey but it was put on the back burner.

The Friends of the York County Library are sponsoring Galvin's trip and work which is estimated to cost about \$900. He is charging the library one-third of his regular fee.

The new library would house about 50,000 books — 30,000 more than now available in the library — a space for a multipurpose meeting room, expanded children's programs and periodicals.

*The York County Public Library
Board of Trustees
requests the pleasure of your company
at a reception
on Sunday, the twelfth of October
at three o'clock
at the library
to meet the members of
the Library Steering Committee*

*regrets only
898-0077*

Bursting With Praise .

Crier: November 14

York County has an excellent public library operating in its now constricting space in the Grafton Shopping Center. It is almost bursting out of its bounds. If you have a question on this just stop in and view it for yourself.

It is operated cleanly and efficiently by Mrs. Beverley Dudley and her staff of two full-time employees, aided by four part-time workers. There is at the library one of the best copy machines that I have found in the County. The cost of copy is 15 cents for each page. The machines at the Yorktown Post Office and the Grafton Office yield much inferior copies at 20 cents per page, when they are working.

The York County Library is a credit to the citizens of York and I feel that they need a vote of confidence and more space. If you doubt anything I have said, just stop in and see for yourself. I urge you to do so. You will find helpful and intelligent public servants.

Charles E. Hatch, Jr.
Artillery Road, Marlbank

Library Checkout

GRAFTON — The York public library will begin a system Nov. 1 of requiring patrons to present a library card upon checking out material.

The system is expected to speed checkout procedures.

For more information contact the library at 898-0077.

DP
10/24/80

York Wants Residents Comments On Library

YORKTOWN — About 2,000 York County residents will get an opportunity to tell "what the library means to me" when they receive surveys being distributed by the county planning department in the next few days.

The surveys are being sent to a random sample of county residents, equally divided between the northern and southern portions of the county, in an effort to assess what residents feel about the library services available to them and whether they feel the services should be expanded.

The library operates a 2,500 square-foot public library in Grafton and contributes \$21,500 to the Williamsburg library to allow Bruton area residents to use it. The county budgeted about \$110,000 for library services this year including the contribution to Williamsburg.

York County senior planner Katharine Messenger said the survey questionnaires will study of the county's library needs by consultants. The consultant's report calls for acquisition of a 11,000 square foot library to serve the "minimum" needs in the county. The report is available for viewing in the county library in Grafton.

Recently, Elizabeth Rogers, chairman of the county library board, asked the supervisors to support a library building project.

The supervisors said they would consider

be left in circulation until Dec. 31 and then the county staff will begin analysis of the results. An envelope will be included in the questionnaire and respondents' identity will not be asked.

Survey forms will also be available at the Grafton Library in the Grafton Shopping Center.

Among the questions asked are: Which libraries in the area do residents use and how often? Which departments of the library are most often used? Is the Grafton location convenient? Is the size adequate? How much should the county budget for libraries? Would the residents support building or leasing a new library building? And if a new building is acquired, which service areas should be included and emphasized?

"We're trying to get a definite focus of the citizens feeling to aid the supervisors and library board in planning for future

The library board recently commissioned a Mrs. Rogers' request for \$89,600 in three yearly installments for capital improvements plan, plus a \$468,200 referendum in 1983 to finance a new library building.

Persons wishing further information on the survey should contact Ms. Messenger at 898-0080 or for details on the proposed library expansion should contact librarian Beverly Dudley at 898-0070.

YORK TOWN CRIER: December 11, 1980 23

York Library Needs Opinions

by DOROTHY HARRIS
York Town Crier

GRAFTON — Some people have learned not to come to the library on Wednesday mornings, says an assistant librarian at York Library. With lights out and chairs pushed into the aisles for the 20 or so pre-schoolers there for 'storyhour' and movies, nearly all of the buildings's 2,500 square feet are an obstacle course featuring wiggling four-year-olds.

So the ten-year-old York County Library wants a new building. With the help of the county planning department it is asking 2,000 county residents for opinions and comments on the county library in the Grafton Shopping Center. Surveys are being sent out to 1,000 residents in the southern county, another 1,000 in the Bruton area. Questionnaires are also

available at the library, and all answers will be kept anonymous.

The questionnaire asks for opinions on the library's location, kinds and volume of materials, and hours of operation. One query wants to know if library users are willing for the county to spend more money on library services.

In spite of its miniscule space, York Library circulated 107,369 books this year in its service area of 28,000 potential readers.

"That's close to what the larger library systems in Newport News and Hampton are doing," says head librarian Beverly Dudley, "and circulation compared to the number of books available is higher than at other libraries."

A study commissioned this year by the library board recommends that York County needs a library of 11,000 square feet which could be expanded to 16,500 square feet. A new library would need an acre of land for parking and landscaping.

The county spent \$110,000 for library services last year, with \$21,000 of it going to the Williamsburg Regional Library for serving Yorkers. State funding was \$16,500.

The library board asked the supervisors last month to begin next years budgeting \$89,600 a year for three years and to sell \$468,000 in bonds in 1983 for a new building.

York Capital Plan Unveiled

By DAVID GIBSON

1982

Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — A \$9 million, three-year capital improvements plan was recommended to the York County Planning Commission Tuesday by the county's planning department. The commission will study the proposal and set a 7 p.m., Jan. 6 work session to discuss the recommendations.

The county budget office has set a target date of Feb. 5 for a recommendation to be forwarded to the supervisors with the county budget and tax rates tentatively scheduled for adoption May 7.

The planning department recommendations generally fall within the guidelines established by the supervisors.

Noticably absent from the planning department's capital improvement budget is a request for financing a new county library. The library was omitted from the plan until the return and analysis of surveys about library needs is completed. The county library board is recommending that about \$1 million be raised through general fund revenue, contributions and a general obligation bond issue in the next three years to finance a new library.

County planner Katharine Messenger said once the library information is available the planning commission will then be able to recommend which method of financing would be best, if a new library is deemed necessary.

The planning department's major project for the next fiscal year calls for the issuance of a \$900,000 general obligation bond to buy the Garrison Building in Grafton which houses the county social services, health, winterization, and housing departments.

The recommendations suggests that other projects which might be considered for general obligation bonds financing during the life of the three-year plan are drainage improvements resulting from a study on that now under way and possibly financing new library construction.

The planning department's recommendations were made from lists submitted by heads of the county's schools, utilities, public works, fire and rescue, library and leisure services departments.

The projects recommended by the planning department for the next three years, not by priority, are:

- Construction of a Seaford Fire Station (\$222,000) because the current response time to Seaford and Dandy exceeds seven minutes and severely limits the fire department's ability to prevent serious damage, according to the recommendation.

- Acquisition of the Garrison Building.
- Renovations to the electrical and heating systems in the county administration building (\$13,400 with additional renovations scheduled for the next two years).

- Improvements to the county water and sewer system (\$1.4 million) including study and action to correct unserved areas such as Lackey, Darby and Firby Roads with water systems; buying private water systems in the county near Williamsburg and exploration of a Cub Creek reservoir; establishing sewer service in the Bypass Road area of the county near Williamsburg; improvements in Sanitary District 2.

1983

- Replacing two ambulances (\$56,000).
- The first phase of a two-year project to purchase advanced life support equipment (\$40,000).

- Sanitary District 1 improvements (\$100,000) to pump stations, abandon the sewage treatment plant and hook to Hampton Roads Sanitary District lines, extension of a force main to the Interstate 64/Route 199 interchange to stimulate commercial development there.

- The first of a two-year project to buy grounds maintenance equipment for the leisure services department which now has the responsibility for maintaining school grounds (\$18,400).

- Renovation of school recreation facilities (\$40,000). A representative of the Grafton-Bethel Elementary School PTA asked the commission Tuesday to consider improving the school's soccer practice field and tennis courts.

- Constructing restrooms in Charles E. Brown Park (\$28,000) because the park is heavily used and is the only county park without restrooms.

- Energy conservation and lighting improvements to Grafton-Bethel and Magruder Elementary Schools (\$100,000).

- Dirt street improvements (\$35,000).

- Drainage improvements (\$50,000).

- Central dispatch emergency equipment (\$30,000).

- The first phase of a two-year fire hydrant installation program (\$15,000).

- Addition to Mt. Vernon Elementary School to accommodate 300 additional students (\$500,000).

1984

- Replacement of the 25-year-old heating, ventilating and air conditioning system in the county courthouse (\$92,000).

- Energy conservation improvements to the county administration building (\$63,000) to reduce window space and install storm windows.

- Energy conservation improvements to the Griffin-Yeates Building which houses the Parent-Child Development Center and a workshop for mentally retarded persons (\$52,000). The project would include lowering ceilings, reducing window space and improving lighting for the 26-year-old building.

- Purchase of a brush truck (\$20,000) for the county fire department for use in fighting brush and timber fires in hard to get to areas.

Library backers face uncertainty for new facility

By SUSAN HAYDEN

Times-Herald Staff Writer

YORK — They have an armful of plans and almost no money.

But members of the county's Library Board and the volunteers in Friends of York County Library don't intend to let the lack of money stop them.

The two groups have begun a fund drive they hope will take them one giant step toward their goal: a new, spacious library building.

The Library Board hopes to collect up to \$100,000 in its fund drive this winter and spring to be used to obtain a site for the future library.

Any additional money would go to a library construction fund, which will be used to build the new facility and purchase equipment and furniture, board members say.

The first contributions have already come in, just in time to meet the Dec. 31 deadline for making tax-exempt charitable donations in 1980.

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Thomsen — former joint presidents of the volunteer group — were the first contributors to the fund drive.

Gulf Oil Corp. will match that contribution 2-to-1, says Thomsen, a former Gulf employee and currently a member of the county's Planning Commission.

Although Gulf's share won't be received until next spring, the combined donation gives the Library Fund Drive a \$600 start.

The steering committee for the fund drive is made up of nine residents and has already

begun looking for a location for the proposed facility.

Michael Wood, a local attorney, who has been appointed to a subcommittee on the site selection, says the group will look for a centrally located site of two to three acres somewhere on Route 17.

A recent consultant's report financed by the Friends of York County Library indicated that Route 17 was an ideal location for a library in the county; board members don't want a new library to be far from that major thoroughfare.

An intersection like the one at routes 173 and 17 would be almost ideal, says Wood.

Currently, the overcrowded library is located in the Grafton Shopping Center, next to a Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control store.

The 20-foot by 125-foot space has rapidly become too small in a facility where circulation has tripled during the past five years, say board members.

If a new library can be constructed, board members would like it to encompass some of the principles outlined by library consultant Galvin Hoyt.

Those plans include a quiet, spacious facility with services centrally located around reference and check-out areas.

Board members hope to include adult and children's areas, as well as a story telling room for the children and a 35-person capacity meeting room for community use.

Also, a local history room is planned, says steering committee member Vivian Breck-



Staff photo by JOE FUDGE

The narrow facility on Route 17 in Grafton used by the library may be replaced if sufficient funds can be generated.

enridge.

There are several people with valuable documents willing to donate them to the library if an appropriate space is provided, she says.

But a room that would have special heat controls so that the old documents don't become damaged by humidity would have to be built.

Library Board Chairman Elizabeth Rogers estimates an entire new facility will cost about \$900,000.

Once the site is obtained, the steering committee hopes the rest will fall more easily into

place.

Mrs. Rogers has already presented a proposal asking the Board of Supervisors to contribute about \$90,000 to the library out of the county's general fund.

The groups also want the supervisors to authorize a bond referendum in fiscal year 1983 to finance the remainder of the cost.

That proposal is currently part of the capital improvements program the Planning Commission will begin considering in January.

Staff members didn't include the project in

its recommended list of improvements, however, pending the results of a library use survey.

The survey was mailed to about 2,000 county residents earlier this month to see what they need and want in terms of library service.

The deadline for returning those was today, but has been extended until Jan. 14 so as many questionnaires as possible can be collected.

Donations to the fund drive should be mailed to the Library Fund Drive, P.O. Box 1706, Grafton 23692.

DAILY PRESS 1/14/81

The planning commission accepted a previously submitted report by the commission's Yorktown Historic District Committee from subcommittee chairman Dana Rist.

The commission agreed not to hold public hearings on the proposals until an "educational and informational process is begun" to educate residents on the content and intent of the proposal.

About 100 Yorktown area residents have submitted a petition against the designation to supervisors chairman Shirley Cooper.

Mrs. Cooper will conduct a town meeting on the issue at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in the county courthouse.

Also at the meeting, Elizabeth Rogers, chairman of the county's library board, asked the commission to remember the need for a new county library during their deliberations on the capital improvements program for next year.

The library was not included in the planning department's recommended projects for the next three years because a library survey was being conducted of county residents during the time the recommendations were made.

Mrs. Rogers said there is a need for an expanded library and further delays compound existing problems.

How to Spend \$475,000?

YORKTOWN — Fiscal conservatism may hit Federal revenue-sharing, but not yet. At least not in York. County officials learned last week the county will receive \$475,000—\$150,000 more than was expected.

A public hearing will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 3pm in the Administration Building when new county administrator John Richardson will hear citizens' views on how to spend the federal funds.

He will use those comments in preparing the county's proposed budget for fiscal 1982, says budget director Leon Hirsh. The funds may be used for capital improvements or for general fund expenditures.

York had expected about \$325,000 this year, based on tax, population, and income data from 1976-78. Later data for 1977-79 yielded the larger amount.

Last year supervisors set aside most of the revenue sharing funds for dirt street improvements and other capital projects.

Library vs. Garrison Bldg.

Crier:

January 13

Purchase of the Garrison building by the county for \$900,000 is being given top priority for capital improvement money, on the basis of saving \$300,000 over a 15-year period. A return of \$20,000 yearly on an expenditure of \$900,000, just over 2% per year, is not exactly spectacular. On the basis of a demonstrated need, this project rates zero — nothing in the way of additional or improved services to the county is hinted at.

Instead it will remove a property assessed at \$601,100 from the tax rolls, and will subject the county to the inevitable renovation, maintenance, and upgrading that will be assessed as necessary.

If the same \$900,000 were put into a library now instead of at some indefinite future date, the savings, considering inflation, could well exceed the \$300,000 "anticipated" by purchase of the Garrison building, in fewer years than 15. Meanswhile York citizens would be benefitting from the expanded library service.

Let's face it — a new library is inevitable. While in the past a library building program has been relegated to the bottom of the priority list, the need will not go away until it is satisfied.

York is justly proud of its educational system, which takes a major part of the tax revenue. Yet the school system directly benefits a limited group — those of school age, plus a comparative handful in adult education — although support comes from all taxpayers, including those who have never had children and those whose children have long completed their schooling. The major school term covers about 180 days per year, on which most schools are used not over eight hours per day.

Likewise, parks and recreation takes a sizeable bite from all taxpayers, including many who, due to age or physical condition, will never use the facilities. And how many use a park or boat ramp in the winter?

A library is both recreational and educational — 25 to 40% of each day's adult check-outs are non-fiction. A library is beneficial to all ages, from the tot looking at a picture book to the oldest of citizens, and to the lame, the halt, the almost blind, large-print books are available. Material borrowed from the library can be used at any hour of the day, every day of the year.

The effects of the loss of the educational and recreational benefits by indefinite postponement of providing an adequate library may not be as visible as the mountain at the landfill, but they are just as real.

There is a demonstrated need for a library; there is none for the purchase of the Garrison building. Money saved by building a library now could well exceed the amount projected for the Garrison building purchase. Which item deserves top priority?

W.J. Hadden
Grafton

YORK TOWN CRIER:

YORK TOWN CRIER
1/15/81

1/29/81

Planners

By DAVID GIBSON
Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — It was like a locally produced, big-money version of "The Price Is Right" game show with contestants adding and subtracting from a list of prizes to come as close as possible to their target figure.

But instead of competing for color televisions and dream vacations the York County planning commission members were trying to "win" fire and rescue services, recreation equipment, water and sewer systems and energy conservation projects.

After four hours Tuesday at their fourth Capital Improvements Program work session of the year, the commission had arrived at a list of recommended projects that exceeded the supervisors' \$425,000 first year target by \$7,000 and the \$1.41 million three-year goal by \$9,900.

Close enough for government work but not as close as they expected.

In the mad rush of adding and subtracting projects and their price tags, to at least wing their target, an arithmetic error was made and the commission adjourned thinking it had recommended a \$426,000 first year program.

Requests from departments like a Yorktown fire station and construction of a new library did not receive the commission's seal of approval this time.

The final decision rests with the county supervisors who are scheduled to receive the commission's recommendations next week as the supervisors begin their budget sessions.

Chances are the supervisors' list will not exactly mirror either the planning commission's or planning staff's recommendations.

Last week the county was notified it would receive an extra \$150,000 in federal revenue sharing money, for a total of \$475,000 for fiscal year 1982. The supervisors can choose to raise their capital improvements program spending limit or use the money elsewhere.

"That's what makes the budget process exciting and frustrating at the same time," Matthews said. "On one hand you identify a need and correct it, and on the other hand you see needs that just can't be met right now."

It's a case of which price is right, right now.

A Library vs. Poverty

York County needs a library. Current staffers, many of them volunteers, have done magic with the meagre storefront and mini-funding the county has so far provided for our make-do Shopping Center surprise. But enough with this "ABC on & off" approach! The county's leaders and populace have long known that, yes, an adequate library costs dollars, taxes. Now it's time to concentrate on the other truth, that there is mental poverty without one. The community isn't, without one.

At present York's library is serving 28,000 lower county residents from 2,500 square feet of space. That allows each of us, if we all arrive at once, one square inch of accomodation.

Library officials are asking for 11,000 square feet — still less than the state's minimum standard of .6 square feet per person. With no magazines, no Reader's Guide indexes, no newspapers (except the York Town Crier), our high school students must still hike to Hampton, or Newport News, or Williamsburg, for real research.

The lower county helped pay for upper-county schools and fire station. Now is the time for uppers and lowers to unite to build a York County library.

D.H.,W.T.

Residents Lobby for Library

by DOROTHY HARRIS
York Town Crier

YORKTOWN — Most years only three or four show up for public hearings on the spending of county revenue sharing funds.

But at this year's hearing, there were at least 50—most sporting bright yellow, hand-lettered badges proclaiming "library." Three supervisors also wore the library proclamations at Tuesday night's hearing.

J.W. Hadden, library volunteer and 30-year resident, called for all of the \$475,000 revenue sharing funds to go toward a new county library. "It should have been built in 1979," he said. "The county should offer a bond referendum for a new library," Mr. Hadden said. "That would be in addition to any other referendums."

County planners have recommended a bond referendum of \$900,000 be approved to purchase the Garrison Building on route 17. Public health and social services for

the county now rent about 70% of that building. A new library would cost about \$1 million.

School superintendent Donald Bruno supported a new library, saying a new facility would complement the county's school system.

About 10 Lackey residents attended the hearing to make a plea for an improved water system there. With the help of a government grant, part of Lackey has city water.

Lawrence Churchill of Lackey said some water systems are polluted there.

Ken Pierpont spoke for lackey water improvements, saying the county "should put public health and safety concerns above cultural needs."

Other money needs cited were for increased teacher salaries, playground improvements, and restrooms for Brown park.

Additional public hearings on the revenue sharing funds have been scheduled for April 28 at Tabb High School and April 30 at Bruton High, prior to the adoption of the county's fiscal 1982 budget.

Money Sought For York Library

By DAVID GIBSON
Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — Yellow usually marks a transition from go to stop, but supporters of a new York County public library sought to reverse that tradition using yellow cards to urge the county to go ahead with the library project.

An unusually large turnout of about 50 people attended a public hearing conducted by county administrator John Richardson on possible uses of the \$475,000 the county is expected to receive in federal revenue sharing funds for the coming fiscal year beginning July 1.

And many of the people at the hearing, including supervisors Rodgers Smith, Shirley Cooper and E.S. Bingley Jr., sported bright yellow, homemade lapel cards announcing their support of a new county library.

County school Superintendent Donald Bruno led the call Tuesday for using the money for the library.

"One of the hallmarks of any great culture has always been the inclusion of a resource place called a library," Bruno said.

He was followed by other speakers, most affiliated with either the county school system or a library volunteer or

auxiliary group, who pointed out the inadequacies of the York County library and the need for an adequate library in the county.

Seventeen people spoke at the hearing and 12 others submitted requests on a form provided at the meeting.

The county library is crammed into 2,500 square feet of space in the Grafton Shopping Center.

A consultant hired by the Friends of the York County Library has recommended a new library building of at least 11,000 square feet to meet the minimum acceptable needs of the county.

The county library was started as a volunteer effort in 1968 and has since grown to its current size and location.

Library board chairman Elizabeth Rogers, who along with volunteers was distributing the "library cards" before the meeting, said an effort was made to bring the library needs before the administrator at the hearing because of the planning commission and planning department's exclusion of support for the library in their recently completed capital improvements plan.

"We've been cut out of the budget for the last three years," Mrs. Rogers said after the meeting. "We felt we had to come before them now to tell them

our feelings and show there were others who felt the same."

Some of the library supporters said it would not be unreasonable to commit the entire \$475,000 in revenue sharing money to the library this year, but others asked only for at least a portion of the money.

The library recommended in the consultant's report would cost about \$1 million, including purchasing the property.

While the library got the most vocal support it was not the only, or necessarily most pressing need, other residents said.

"I'm in sympathy with the library and other requested needs," Ken Pierpoint said. "But public health is the greatest need in the county. There are areas in the county where people do not have safe water," he continued in reference to the Lackey community, among others.

"Public safety and public health (considerations) far exceed recreation, cultural and pleasure needs of the county. We would be remiss if we don't take care of public health needs," Pierpoint said.

Lawrence Churchill, a Lackey resident and member of the county leisure

services advisory board, spoke in favor of the public water system in Lackey and added a plea for restrooms at the Charles E. Brown Park in Lackey.

Churchill said the lack of restrooms at the park represents a "hideous situation" and said he has advised the leisure services board that if restrooms cannot be provided, the park should be closed.

His feelings were echoed by Estelle Redcross who lives near the park.

Other needs spoken of during the meeting included requests for improving playgrounds and recreation equipment at county schools and providing social and leisure facilities for elderly county residents.

The information brought forward at the hearing will be used by Richardson and the supervisors in preparation of the county budget for fiscal year 1982.

The \$475,000 the county is anticipating in revenue sharing funds is about \$150,000 more than it received last year.

Revenue sharing money can be used to finance capital projects or for general fund requirements. The federal revenue sharing program was begun in 1972 as a way to return some federal tax receipts to localities.

Beverly Dudley Mothered Library from Its Infancy

by VIRGINIA GABRIELE
York Town Crier

GRAFTON—Beverly Dudley got involved with library work to satisfy a need familiar to most mothers of young children—to "get out of the house."

But the few hours of volunteer work at the new county library soon turned into "a compulsion to see things were done right"—and a second career for the former teacher.

For the past decade Mrs. Dudley has guided the county library's growth from a small volunteer effort to a fully accredited library with a budget of \$110,000, a paid staff of six, 30 volunteers, and a circulation last year of 129,000 books.

She has fought hard for increased county support of the library: for staff, books, and furniture. And she is now in the midst of a campaign to get a new \$1 million, 15,000-square-foot library building. In the process she has found a new career that she feels is the "best of all possible worlds. It's a pleasure to be able to do things for people, to be able to be of service," she explained. "In teaching I sometimes felt I had a captive group that was not anxious to be served. But library work is different."

The library opened in September 1968 as a project of the York County Volunteer Association, in a house on Route 17 next to what is now the miniature golf course. It started with a totally volunteer staff and 1,500 donated books, about half of which were 'Reader's Digest Condensed Books,' and it had a circulation the first year of 5,000.

When librarian Nancy Deskins left in June 1970, Mrs. Dudley was named librarian. Before Mrs. Deskins left she persuaded the county to pay rent and utilities for the library and to pay Mrs. Dudley's babysitting costs.

Mrs. Dudley had taught intermediate and

high school math at various Army posts while her husband was stationed overseas. Now she was at home with a preschool son and twin daughters and was "receptive to anything to do outside the house."

She began volunteering at the new library—working the desk, cataloging books, and taking the battered old typewriter home at night to type cards.

"It was great relaxation to get away from the house...and more and more it became my project," Mrs. Dudley said.



Beverly Dudley

And Mrs. Dudley and a few volunteers did everything—they checked books in and out, ordered books, handled donations, raised money, cataloged and shelved books, and fought for more county support.

Milestones have been frequent. In July 1971 the library moved to its present location in the Grafton Shopping Center. In 1974 the county began providing money for book purchases. In 1975 library space was doubled. In 1976 a Board of Trustees was appointed. In 1978 the library met state standards and qualified for state aid.

And every month the library has set circulation records. Circulation of the 20,500-book collection last year was 129,000.

A librarian like Mrs. Dudley who has guided the development of a new library has a big influence on the type of books available, the atmosphere of the library and its special services.

Because book money has always been tight, Mrs. Dudley has concentrated on the areas of greatest demand—adult fiction, particularly best sellers, and preschool books (because preschoolers can't use school libraries).

Now that money is a little more available, the library is trying to build up its reference shelves with updates of encyclopedias and other expensive reference works. A \$600 set of the Encyclopedia of Science and Technology is on order.

Tape cassettes and pamphlets are available, but lack of space precludes the purchase of periodicals.

The atmosphere is friendly and helpful.

Basically Mrs. Dudley tries to make available what people want to read: "If we get two requests for a book, we try to order it."

When she started volunteering, Mrs. Dudley's prior library experience was limited to working as a library page in high school and extensive use of libraries over the years. Since then her library knowledge has gone beyond on-the-job training. She took all of the few library science courses offered by local colleges and is now enrolled in a new master of library science degree program offered by Catholic University of Washington DC at Old Dominion University in Norfolk. She and library technician Norma Colton have finished three semesters and expect to complete the program in summer 1982.

Now Mrs. Dudley spends much of her time handling paperwork at her desk in the back of the library and working to get a new library building before books are stacked all over the floor.

But she still likes the variety of the job and the feeling that she has been of service to people.

Bonus Money? Spend It On the Library

by MARGARET CUBBERLY
York Town Crier



"They should give it all to the York County library to be used toward a new building," says Joyce Royer of Brandywine. "It would benefit most of the people in this end of the county."

York County officials were surprised last month by \$150,000 more in federal revenue sharing funds than the \$325,000 they had expected. At a public hearing next Tuesday citizens will air their views on how that half-million—including the unexpected windfall—should be spent.

The Planning Commission's recommendations embrace the cost of projects financed through the county's general fund and the previously anticipated revenue-sharing money. They do not include the \$150,000 'bonus.' We travelled along a stretch of Route 17 in Grafton asking:

How should the county spend that extra \$150,000 in revenue sharing funds?



"On the library," says Ron Wade of Bruton, co-manager of TrueValue Home Center. "The facility down there [in the Grafton Shopping Center] is just an excuse. With the influx of people into York County, there's more and more need for a facility. How many people think of going to a library in a shopping center?"



Browsing in Fireplaces Inc., in York Village, Eric Stewart says the library comes to mind. "I haven't been in it yet, but that doesn't look like much of a library," says Mr. Stewart, who moved from Hampton to Marlbank a month ago. "I thought the one in Hampton was pitiful, but this one is worse."



"I'd rather see it used to retire the long-term funded debt," says Joe Haggerty of Grafton, "or to get rid of some it anyway."



At Peninsula Galleries, customer Rusty Sprouse of Tabb says he'd "like them to pay off the sewer system as fast as they can. I haven't been in York County long enough to know what kind of services they offer, but I do know they have a large expenditure on that."

Nancy Sprouse, one eye on 15-month-old Jennifer, says she'd favor a new library. "That would be fantastic. I've noticed how crowded it is. They sure could use more books and space."



"To help the people [in Lackey and Dandy] who can't even drink their own well water," says Dorothy Maguire of Harwood Mill, co-owner of Mac's Archery. "They should spend the money to do something really constructive, and not on a project they'd have to put more money in to maintain."

York Weighs Referendum On Library

By DAVID GIBSON

Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — County residents may soon get their chance to collectively decide if they want a new public library in York County.

Board of supervisors chairman Shirley Cooper has asked for a meeting with library board members to consider the possibility of a referendum for selling general revenue bonds to finance construction of a new library.

At Thursday's supervisors meeting Mrs. Cooper asked County Administrator John Richardson to arrange a meeting between supervisors and the library board to discuss a referendum. The library is located in a 2,500-square-foot storefront in the Grafton Shopping Center.

A library consultant hired by the Friends of the York County Library late last year, along with the library board, has recommended a new library of at least 11,000 square feet to meet the county's minimum library needs.

The cost of purchasing property and building such a library would be about \$1 million.

The library is cramped and does not subscribe to periodicals because there is no space to store or display the materials.

Elizabeth Rogers, chairman of the library board, has asked the county to contribute \$89,000 annually for three years toward a library building fund followed by a bond issue referendum in 1983 for the remainder of the needed acquisition and development money.

A request for money for a library building was not included in the recent capital improvements program budgets for the coming fiscal year prepared by the county planning department and planning commission.

The project was not recommended at that time because the results of a library survey conducted by the planning department had not been received.

Earlier this month library sympathizers appeared at a public hearing to request the county contribute all or part of the \$475,000 the county is expected to receive in federal revenue sharing money for the coming fiscal year toward the library building fund.

After Thursday's meeting Mrs. Cooper said she feels a referendum is the only realistic way to expect to raise the amount of money needed to build a new library.

LETTERS Freedom to Read!

Crier
2/20

Crier:

February 11

What a great feeling to know that York County will enjoy a sizeable slice of the Federal Revenue Sharing program. That indeed is one of the more pleasant things that has happened to our community.

There are so many pressing needs that require financial attention that it begins to boggle the mind. The county officials, who must ultimately make the decision as to how this money will be spent, are not to be envied.

Listening to comments of many county residents, there emerges strong support for the extra revenue money to be applied to a new library facility. The time has come for York to enter the mainstream of developing a public program of reference and research capabilities, as well as literary entertainment programs. The skyrocketing inflationary economy is making books more and more a luxury. With gasoline rapidly nearing \$2 per gallon a central library is vital, for many of our residents will no longer be able to afford the luxury of driving to Hampton, to Denbigh, or to Williamsburg to use the facilities of those cities. The services of a public library provides to all the people, rich and poor, a precious piece of our inherited and guaranteed rights and freedom—the right to read, and read what we choose.

The conditions of the present library are appalling, and this is through no fault of the library staff or county government. The rapid growth of the library proves that a critical need exists for facilities which will allow it to grow and adequately meet the needs of the people.

The public library is one of the few services in our society that truly serves all the people equally. To apply the extra revenue sharing funds toward the improvement of the library facilities is perhaps the one thing the York County government can do that will truly benefit all the people.

E.S. Deach
Buckingham Drive, Dandy

2/26/81

Library Referendum Likely

by DOROTHY HARRIS
York Town Crier

YORKTOWN — They're not exactly sure when it should be held, but Supervisors pretty much agreed last Thursday that the way to a new county library was through a popular referendum.

"This is the route to go," said Buck Bingley, "to see if the citizens do want a library."

A bond referendum election

could be held either this spring or delayed until General Assembly delegate elections this fall.

A new facility would cost about \$1 million for land acquisition and an 11,000-square-foot building. A consultant hired by the Friends of the Library recommended that an adequate library for York should be at least that size with separate reading rooms for children and adults, a

reference section, and a meeting room.

Supervisors said later the new library would most likely be located in the lower county. "We have to start somewhere—satellite facilities can be added later," one said.

Library supporters started a fund drive in December to accumulate \$100,000 for a library site. County planners suggested that a new library be built on land next to the Garrison Building on Route 17 near Denbigh Boulevard.

York's social services and health department already occupy 70% of the building and planners recommended that the county purchase the building with a \$900,000 bond sale, for those and other county facilities.

Three Supervisors however have said they do not plan to

follow the planning commission's recommendation for county ownership of the building.

We've voted it down once before, they said, and for now it's cheaper to rent than to buy. York now receives aid from the state to offset rental costs. Most of that money would be lost if the county buys rather than rents.

Planning department staff figures show that in 15 years buying the building would pay for itself and begin to save the county money.

YORK TOWN CRIER: March 12, 1981 3

Suprvs. Back Referendum For New Public Library

YORKTOWN—Saying "It is the time to do it right and do it now," supervisors agreed Tuesday to support a bond referendum this fall for a new county library.

But public support will be needed for a new capital project, and probably the best way to get that would be through petitions, they said. The library board would gather signatures and petitions would be presented to the circuit court, requesting that a library referendum be held this fall along with the gubernatorial election.

At least 1,230 signatures

would be needed—10% of the county's 12,292 voters in last fall's presidential election.

Library board president Elizabeth Rogers said the board is looking at property on Route 17 and is considering several sites for a new facility. The area between Denbigh Boulevard and Lakeside Drive is the most centrally located for the lower county, she said. The board would eventually like to open a branch library in Bruton.

Earlier cost estimates were about \$1 million for land and a new building.

Library Gets 1931 News Special

GRAFTON — A copy of the 24-page Yorktown Sesquicentennial special supplement published by the Richmond News Leader on Oct. 16, 1931 has been acquired by the York Public Library.

The paper has been restored and bound, and is available

Crier 3/19/81
for viewing at the library. It contains a full account of the planned Sesquicentennial celebration, contemporary descriptions of the area, and details about the Yorktown battle, surrender and aftermath, according to Librarian Beverly Dudley.

Amnesty for Overdue Books

GRAFTON — The York Library, in honor of National Library Week, is proclaiming an amnesty for overdue books, March 30-April 11. During the two-week truce, no fines will be levied and no questions asked. Just return books, please, say county librarians.

Cover 3/26/81 VOTER'S VIEW
The Library: by RALPH GRIMSLEY
How Will York Pay For It?

The York County Board of Supervisors is still trying to figure out the least painful way for the citizens to pay for the County's shameful sewer mess. The Board came to a prompt decision, however, on how to pay for a new library for the lower county — let the voters decide.

The present library, housed in a store in the Grafton Shopping Center, covers 2,500 square feet of space. About a year ago the Library Board determined that the book collection, staff, patrons and services had outgrown these quarters.

The Library Board engaged a professional library consultant, Hoyt Galvin of Charlotte, N.C., to survey the needs of the lower county. Mr. Galvin's report, which was paid for by the Friends of the Library, proposed a building program with a minimum space requirement of 11,000 square feet.

The following options for acquiring additional space were considered by the Library Board:

- a. Expand the present building
- b. Find an acceptable rental building
- c. Arrange for an individual or group to build a library, using a lease purchase plan
- d. Obtain funding for a new site and building.

Exploration of the first three options proved futile and the Board determined to follow the fourth.

In order to keep costs within reason and to stimulate public support, the Library Board proposed a three-level building project.

The first level was to be a fund-raising drive among community-spirited residents of the County. It was expected that \$100,000 might be raised in this manner and would demonstrate the community's commitment to the project.

The second level would be to ask the Board of Supervisors to make a three year, three increment money commitment to the capital improvements for library construction. The amount requested was \$89,600 each year or a total of \$268,800.

The third level would be a Library Building bond referendum for the year 1983. The bond issue would be for \$468,200.

On January 9, 1981, the Library Board chairman, Elizabeth Rogers, appeared before the Planning Commission. She stated, "The York County Planning Department has once again declined to include funds for a new county library in this year's capital improvements plan. I should like to point out that the library has been requesting to be considered in capital improvements for at least the past five years, during which time our need has increased drastically."

The Planning Commission did not include any part of the Library Board's proposal in the Capital Improvements Program it forwarded to the Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors, however, took an entirely different approach — leave it up to the citizens.

The only way the citizens can effect county legislation under present state law is through popular petition to the circuit court for a bond referendum. "This is the route to go," said Supervisor Buck Bingley, "to see if the citizens do want a library." Another supervisor was quoted as saying, "It is the time to do it right and to do it now."

At least 1,230 signatures will be required on the petition. Presumably, the petition would be only for the \$468,200 bond issue recommended by the Library Board.

If the referendum passes in the ensuing election, the fund drive and the three year set-asides of tax revenues can continue as originally proposed by the Library Board. If the referendum fails, we are back at square one as far as library expansion is concerned.

Either way, the will of the people will have been demonstrated.

They've finally listed county goals; now supervisors must rank them

By SUSAN HAYDEN

Times-Herald Staff Writer

YORK — If the Board of Supervisors ever wondered what the county's needs are, it should have no doubt now.

At the close of the first phase of the goal-setting process they started this year, supervisors have a long list of county needs.

All that's left to do is arrange them in order of importance; deciding which item need immediate attention.

Supervisors have been saying they wanted to set priorities since they were elected in fall 1979. For several, setting priorities for the county was one of the promises they made when they were campaigning for seats on the board.

But the day-to-day business of running the county, complicated by the firing of former Administrator Richard E. Bain last May and the process of hiring new County Administrator John Richardson Jr., delayed fulfilling the promise.

Finally, in February, supervisors decided to make a list of what their priorities should be. Helping supervisors determine needs and priorities for the county became the special project of Assistant Administrator Robert L. Steele.

The list of county needs was drawn up after suggestions from supervisors, residents, staff members and members of a variety of county boards and commissions.

Working with large charts, Steele and the supervisors have divided the suggestions into long-term goals and short-term needs, which could be met in three years.

Steele says a specific priority list, including ways to solve the problems, will help supervisors work together as a

team and help them maintain control of the direction of the county government.

Supervisors say they're finally putting the horse before the cart.

After supervisors have approved a fiscal year 1982 budget and set fees in sanitary districts No. 1 and No. 2, they plan to review the list of suggested needs, place them in categories and begin putting them in a priority list.

Then they will decide which items they must handle and which ones should be assigned to the county ad-

ministrator.

Short-term needs suggested range from already-planned projects like courthouse renovations to general policies like planning water and sewer projects that will encourage desirable industrial growth.

Several groups have said the county needs to expedite permit procedures so that developers and staff members will be faced with less red tape.

Other needs suggested for the supervisors' list include:

- Reducing the real estate tax burden for homeowners by attracting more commercial and industrial development.

- Approving a new zoning ordinance to replace the 20-year-old ordinance used now.

- Planning a new county library.

- Obtaining permanent recognition of Yorktown Day as a state holiday.

- Maintaining high quality schools.

- Improving county jail facilities and planning for a regional facility to house juvenile lawbreakers.

Supervisors plan to review the list of priorities every three months and revise it as necessary to keep it tuned to current county needs.

Water system ranks No. 1 on citizens' mail-in survey

Residents who responded to a survey in the Citizen News, mailed quarterly by York to each county resident, said water system development should be the county's number one priority.

The most common write-in priority was the reduction of the cost of local government and cutting county taxes.

Only 2 percent of county residents responded to the survey, too few to constitute a scientifically valid sample.

But the priorities of those who did respond included water system development, school facilities, library expansion, more fire stations, extension of sewer services and industrial development.

Improving dirt streets; increasing recreational programs, parks and playgrounds; and financing social services programs were more commonly given lower priorities.

Library Petitioners Circulate for Signers

by Dorothy Harris
York Town Crier

GRAFTON — York County's store-front library has 2,500 square feet of space. It needs 11,000 minimum, says a library consultant's report.

But first, library supporters want names: signatures of registered voters. Petitions are circulating. Advocates hope to garner support for a new library.

"There is nothing legal about the petitions," says Amanda McLean, in charge of petition circulation. We want to present the Supervisors with a show of citizen interest, that York residents will vote for a referendum this fall."

Supervisors have said they will petition the circuit court to order a referendum on bonds for a new library, if enough names are gathered to show that residents are willing to borrow money for a new library. No minimum number of names is required, but the more the better, supervisors told library board chairman Elizabeth Rogers in February.

What is needed is about \$900,000 for land, design, and a new building and equip-

ment, the consultant's report estimates. A referendum for bond sales is the best way to get funds, say library supporters and Supervisors.

The petition, making no mention of a dollar figure, says "the undersigned, being residents and qualified voters of York County, hereby petition the Board of Supervisors to request the Circuit Court of York County to order a referendum on the question of issuance of bonds to fund a new library building and equipment to serve the citizens of the County."

Copies of the petition are at the library in Grafton and are being carried door-to-door by volunteers. At least 1,000 names have been collected so far, and there may be another 200 on petitions not yet returned, says Mrs. McLean.

The county library has no periodicals or magazines, and limited reference materials for lack of space. Children's activities make use of most of the library's floor space. There should be a separate area for children, the report says.

Get the Facts

The York County Library has a slide presentation and speakers to discuss the library's need for expansion, available to clubs and interested groups. For info call the York Library at 898-0077 or 898-5691.

EDITORIAL

On Minds & Money

A predictable reaction of some to the petition for building a public library for the lower county's 27,000 people (page 1) is this: "it's the wrong year: there's inflation, high interest rates, a troubled economy, local taxes up 20 percent already..."

Yes, but: that's an old refrain. There has never been a "good year" to invest a million dollars on mental resources and skimp on sewer, water, landfill, bodily basics. The result is finally here: our one-room storefront library is running out of its last bit of space; there will be no more room for any new books.

Yes, but: the usual bond-issue solution for such a large capital expense is ruinously expensive under current interest rates. The county's budget director is even now holding back on going to market with the approved landfill bond issue in hopes interest rates for borrowing will become more bearable.

Yes, but: What else can we do? If enough people sign the petition to convince the Supervisors to ask for a referendum, and the voters approve, the first year of the payback burden won't come until fiscal 1982-83. And if we wait any longer, the strain of the next reassessment — with property valuation leaping, long after the fact, for fiscal 1983-84 — may make the "bad year" excuse permanent.

Yes. And therefore, we propose use of the county's pay-as-you-go tradition: Let's add to the referendum a second choice: for appropriating \$750,000 for a library in our '82-83 budget as the top priority, guaranteed in cash, saving ourselves from \$750,000 in bond-issue interest and proving our sane values. We think that option would win voter approval.

W.T.

